

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was en route to Washington, DC, from Beijing, China, on February 22, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, February 22, 2002

The President's Radio Address

February 16, 2002

Good morning. Today I'm flying west across the Pacific to visit Japan, South Korea, and China. The people of Tokyo, Seoul, and Beijing touched all our hearts in the days after September 11, with moving displays of sympathy and support in the wake of the terrorist attacks. Today, all three nations are supporting our fight against terrorism.

I look forward to discussing our progress in ridding the world of this great threat to civilization, and we'll discuss our work to build a better world beyond terror, a world of greater opportunity and more open trade, stronger security and more individual freedom.

I will speak to the Japanese Parliament and thank Japan for five decades of friendship. Our great alliance has helped make possible the remarkable economic success of the Pacific region, which creates so much opportunity and so many jobs for Americans.

Today, Japan is in the midst of economic uncertainty and transition. But I have great confidence in Japan's future and in the unlimited potential of its people. And I'm confident that Japan will make the bold reforms needed to restore growth and opportunity, which will benefit the people of both our nations.

I will visit South Korea and travel to the Demilitarized Zone, one of the most dangerous places on Earth, where barbed wire marks a line dividing freedom and oppression. I will visit with American service men and women who defend this frontier and provide stability on the Korean Peninsula.

The people of South Korea have built a vibrant democracy and Asia's third largest economy. The people of the South are now reaching out to the North in a spirit of friendship and reconciliation. I support these efforts. Yet I will remind the world that America will not allow North Korea and other dan-

gerous regimes to threaten freedom with weapons of mass destruction.

In China, I look forward to seeing again firsthand the remarkable changes that are taking place as China opens to the world. America welcomes China's recent entry into the World Trade Organization, which will encourage American trade with China and encourage economic freedom and the rule of law in China itself.

I look forward to talking to the Chinese about their commitment to open up their markets to U.S. agricultural products. I'm also looking forward to meeting with Chinese students, because it gives me an opportunity to talk about the America I know, an America with strong values of family, community, faith, and freedom. And I will express my hopes that as China moves forward, it too will embrace the universal demands of human dignity, freedom of conscience and religion, and the rights and value of every life.

The flight across the northern Pacific is a long one. But in our spirit of friendship and cooperation, the nations of the northern Pacific are drawing ever closer. All around this great ocean we see good friends, Canada and Australia, New Zealand and Thailand, the Philippines and Taiwan. And they will find in America a nation that is determined and patient and committed to the great cause of building a world that is more peaceful, more secure, and more prosperous.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:42 a.m. on February 15 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 16. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 15 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the Troops at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska

February 16, 2002

The President. Thank you all.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Thank you all. Colonel, thank you very much. It's nice to be back in Alaska. I was told I was the only President of the United States ever to live in Alaska. And even though that was in 1974, I have incredibly fond memories of such a beautiful, beautiful part of the world.

I want to thank you very much for your hospitality. And I'm so honored that, on my way overseas, that you all would greet Laura and me. I know—I'm confident that you're as proud of her as I am. A lot of people are. People all across America now know why I married her. *[Laughter]* A lot of them are still wondering why she married me. But we're honored to be here.

And I'm honored to be in a place where people understand the need for sacrifice and patriotism. There's no question that Anchorage, Alaska, the Anchorage Bowl is full of people who have dedicated themselves to serving our country, not only those who wear the uniform but the family members of those who wear the uniform. And I've come to Alaska to let you know that I'm proud of our United States military, that when I sent you into action, I knew you would not let this Nation down.

And I want to tell all of you, those who wear the uniform, the family members of those who wear the uniform, and those who support our United States military in Alaska, that our cause is just, our cause is noble, and we will defeat the forces of terror.

I want to thank Doug Miller, and I want to thank General Schwartz and Colonel Nickerson, and thank you all, as well.

As you can see, I'm traveling in some pretty fancy company today. I'm traveling with a man who has put together one of the greatest coalitions of freedom in the history of mankind, a man who has served our country with such incredible distinction and class, a valuable member of my Cabinet, Colin Powell.

And I appreciate—I appreciate the congressional delegation from Alaska, three really fine people, one of whom I traveled from Washington today with, and that's, of course, Senator Frank Murkowski. Thank you, Frank. He, along with Senator Stevens, does a fabulous job in Washington, DC, not only for Alaska but for the country—are tireless advocates for the people of Alaska. And so is Congressman Don Young. You've done a good job by putting good people in Washington, DC.

I don't know whether your Governor has admitted it or not, but he went to Yale. *[Laughter]* He probably slurs his words so it sounds like "jail." *[Laughter]* And we were classmates, and it's probably not politically correct to say it, but we were fraternity brothers. And I'm glad to be here with my old friend Tony Knowles.

I also found another George W., the mayor. I want to thank all the State and local officials who are here. I want to thank the members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are here. I want to tell you something: We've got no better friends than Canada. They stand with us in this incredibly important crusade to defend freedom, this campaign to do what is right for our children and our grandchildren.

I want to thank the band, the Top Cover. I know we've got some members of the 3d Wing here today. As the Colonel mentioned, the 3d Wing of Elmendorf had a long and distinguished history of providing top cover for America. The F-15 Strike Eagle drivers and AWACS crews—*[applause]*—I didn't know the AWACS crews were quite that wild. I thought they were kind of a sedentary bunch. *[Laughter]* The radar operators have been providing the homeland defense for more than half a century, and America is grateful.

And I want to thank you for your efforts for Operation Noble Eagle. You've made a huge contribution to this—to our Nation. And as the lead air expeditionary force wing, the 3d Wing's mission is critical to maintaining peace and security around the world. You're good about getting people—the right people to the right place on time.

The people of Elmendorf and Anchorage welcome home more than 500 members of

the 90th Fighter Squadron. I'm glad you got back in time for Christmas. And that's exactly where I'm heading, over to South Korea, so if you've got somebody you want me to say hello to—[laughter]—never mind. [Laughter]

You know, I can't wait to take our message overseas. We're going to Japan and South Korea and China, where I'm going to continue to work with the leaders of those countries in our mutual concerns, starting with fighting the war against terror, making it clear that the resolve of this Nation is steady and strong—to be able to look these leaders in the eye and say, when it comes to defending freedom, the United States of America will not blink.

And I look forward to sharing with them my passionate belief in the values that we hold dear here in America: Freedom, freedom to worship, freedom to speak, freedom to achieve your dreams. And it's those very values that came under attack on September the 11th. The good news is, our mighty military was ready.

You know, when we were attacked, it seemed like the people in the U.S. military took it personally. A reporter asked an Air Force pilot, he said—asked him if he had any direct connection to any of the victims of September the 11th. And he said, "You know, I think we all do. They're all Americans." You see, when you strike one American, you strike all Americans. And those terrorists are going to hear from us.

It's hard for me to figure out what was going through the minds of those who planned and attacked America. They must have thought we were soft.

Audience member. They were wrong!

The President. Yes, they were. They thought we were so materialistic that we didn't understand sacrifice and honor and duty. They must have been watching some lousy movies. [Laughter] They didn't know that this great Nation would rise up in unison to send a clear message that we will do whatever it takes to defend our freedoms, that this great Nation is resolved to find the killers, one by one, and bring them to justice.

But this cause is more than just an individual. Oh, I know sometimes the people on the airwaves like to say, "Well, someone is—

bin Laden's hiding here, and he's hiding there." But this cause is much bigger than a single person. This is about fighting terror wherever it hides. This is about defending America and our friends and allies, defending values. The world must understand that this Nation won't rest until we have destroyed terrorism, until we have denied the threat of global terrorism.

I can't tell you how passionate I feel on the subject. I look around and see your children and your grandchildren. This is an opportunity to defend freedom for them. This is a chance to say that your kids can grow up in a secure and peaceful America, and if they work hard and get a good education, they can realize their dreams in a peaceful world. We long for peace, but we understand that the terrorists must be brought to justice in order to achieve that peace.

Thanks to our military, we're making good progress, and it hasn't taken very long. If you think about it, we've been at this for a little less than 6 months, and we're achieving our objectives.

First, I mentioned the coalition the Secretary of State's working on. And we sent a clear message: Either you're with us, or you're against us; either you stand for freedom, or you stand with tyranny. And the good news is, many, many, many nations have heard that message, and I'm proud to report they stand squarely with the United States in the defense of freedom.

And you all also may remember that early on I said, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you provide comfort to a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist. The Taliban now knows what we mean. They're gone. And guess what? People in Afghanistan don't miss them one bit. I am proud that our military has fulfilled our mission, our military mission. But in so doing, we liberated a people. We freed women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind.

But there's more to do in Afghanistan. We're entering a difficult phase of the first theater in the war against terror. They've got a lot of caves over there, but they can't hide long enough. See, we're patient, and we're determined, and we're a steadfast nation. We're steady in our resolve. And that's so

important, because we're trying to run down some people that, on the one hand, send youngsters to their death, and they, themselves, try to hide in caves. But there is no cave deep enough to hide from the long arm of justice of the United States military. We're going to run them down, one by one.

And it doesn't matter where they try to hide. There is no calendar; there is no deadline. There is no "If you don't do it by now, we're just going to go home and take a nap." [Laughter] That's not the way it works. Now that they have laid down the gauntlet, we're going to pursue them, and we're going to get them. And when we do, the world will be a safer place.

But we've got a bigger task than that. One of the most dangerous things that can happen to the future of our nation is that these kind of terrorist organizations hook up with nations that develop weapons of mass destruction. One of the worst things that could possibly happen to freedom-loving people, whether it be the United States or our friends or allies, is to allow nations that have got a dark history and an ugly past to develop weapons of mass destruction like nuclear weapons or chemical weapons or biological weapons which could, for example, be delivered by long-range missile, to become a part of the terrorist network. And there are such nations in the world.

Of course, we'd like for them to change their ways, and we'll continue to pressure them to do so. We'd like for them to conform to normal ways of treating their own people, plus their neighborhood, plus the world. We expect there to be transparency. People who have got something to hide make us nervous, particularly those who have gassed their own citizens in the past, for example.

And so we expect them—and so do other freedom-loving countries—to change their behavior. But if they do not, the United States will do what it takes to defend our freedom. Make no mistake about it.

This is a grand and noble cause, and it's going to require a strong and modern military. I sent a budget up to Congress. The good news is, I don't have to worry about two United States Senators and the Member of the House of Representatives from the State of Alaska.

The budget I submitted is the largest single increase in military spending in a generation. If we're going to fight for freedom, we have to pay the cost to fight for freedom, and it's worth it. And I also believe that any time we send our military into harm's way, they should have the best equipment, the best training, the best possible support. A grateful nation owes it to the United States military. And one other thing, you need another pay raise.

You hear a lot of talk about homeland security. And I want to assure you all, the moms and dads and everybody else here, that we are doing everything in our power to secure the homeland. I mean, we're chasing down every lead, every hint, every possible cell member. We're giving them a chance to share with us what they may or may not know. I mean, we are absolutely defending this Nation.

I can make no guarantees; I do know the enemy wants to hit us again. But every day, my administration discusses how best to make America a more difficult target. Every day, the FBI Director talks about how he has changed the culture of the FBI. We've got thousands of FBI agents working to protect the American people. We're making our borders more secure. We've now got a bio-terrorism initiative we're starting. We're doing a lot, and I'm proud of the efforts of people who are working overtime, constantly working to make the homeland secure.

But the American people must understand, the best way to secure the homeland is to unleash the United States military. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

Oh, I know there's been a lot of focus overseas, but I'm also concerned about this: Any time anybody can't find work in America, I'm worried about it. I'm worried about the fact that the enemy, when they attacked us, hurt our economy. I'm worried about the fact that we need to have a stimulus program that will help people find work.

Listen, I'm more than willing to sign—and will sign legislation that provides people with an unemployment check. But people want more than an unemployment check in America. They want a steady paycheck, and Congress must understand that. I want a stimulus

package on my desk. There's too much politics in Washington. We need to be worried about those people who can't work. We need to be worried about those who can't find work, and understand the role of Government is to create an environment in which jobs are created.

And so one of the things we did up there—or over there, or over and down there—[laughter]—was we cut your taxes. We did it at the right time. And we did it at the right time. The best way to encourage economic vitality and growth is to let people keep their own money. When you spend your own money, somebody's got to manufacture that which you're spending it on. You see, more money in the private sector circulating makes it more likely that our economy will grow.

And incredibly enough, some want to take away part of those tax cuts. They've been reading the wrong textbook. You don't raise somebody's taxes in the middle of a recession. You trust people with their own money. And by the way, that money isn't the Government's money; it's the people's money.

There are some other things we can do and must do in order to create jobs. We've got to trade. I can't wait to talk to the Chinese leadership about getting them to honor their agreements for the American farmers and ranchers to be able to sell our foodstuffs into China. I said all along, there's many, many mouths in the world to be fed, and if I do my job by opening up markets, U.S. farmers and ranchers are going to feed them. We're the best in the world at growing crops and raising cows and hogs, and we ought to be feeding the world. And when we do, that will mean jobs for the American people.

But there's a way to create jobs for the American people right here in Alaska, right here in this important State. You know, I'm the first—I think we're the first administration in quite a while that has ever developed a national energy plan. See, I understand that we need a national energy plan. I understand it's in the national interests, the security interests of the United States of America that we're less dependent on foreign sources of energy. We'll all work hard to put measures in place that encourage conservation. It makes a lot of sense to do that. But folks, we've got to find energy in our own country,

and a great place to start is right here in the State of Alaska.

And a lot of people understand that not only is it in our national security interests that we drill for oil and gas in Alaska, it's good for jobs; it's good for working people; it's good for people to be able to put money on the plate—money on the table so they can feed their families. Listen, we need to be exploring for oil and gas in ANWR.

I've heard them all in Washington; I've heard all the skeptics say, "Well, you can't do that. It's going to ruin this or that." Listen, there's no doubt in my mind; there's no doubt in your Governor's mind; there's no doubt in the congressional delegation's mind; there's no doubt in the minds of people who take a sound, scientific look at this that we can do so without endangering the environment, that we can find energy for America's people and, at the same time, preserve the beauty of Alaska. What we need is a commonsense approach to energy.

Audience members. [Inaudible]

The President. There you are. [Laughter] Let me tell you how proud I am of America. I cannot tell you how fantastically I feel about the people of this country. You see, not only have we shown incredible resolve and strength; this is a nation that is full of compassion and kindness. We are a decent nation. The strength of our country is not the halls of Government. The strength of the country is the people.

And one of the ways—one of the things that people say to me is they say, "What can I do? What can I do to help in the war against terror?" Well, many of you are already answering that call here today, but others aren't. Others are wondering what they can do to help.

As you probably figured out by now, I view this current conflict as either us versus them, and evil versus good. And there's no in-between. There's no hedging. And if you want to join the war against evil, do some good. If you want to be a part of our Nation's stand against those who murder innocent people for the sake of murder, for those who believe in tyranny, for those who hijack a noble religion—if you want to take a stand, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

If you want to be a part of the war, walk across the street and say to a shut-in elderly person, “What can I do to help you,” or mentor a child, or get into your public schools here in Anchorage, or provide support for people, or go to your church or synagogue or mosque and walk out with a program that says, “I want to help somebody in need.” Feed the hungry. If you want to be a part of the war against terror, remember that it’s the gathering momentum of millions and millions of acts of kindness that take place in America that stands squarely in the face of evil.

The enemy hit us, and they made a huge mistake. Not only will our Nation seek justice, but out of the evil will come incredible goodness. Out of the evil will become America more resolved not only to defend freedom, more resolved to sacrifice, if necessary, to defend the freedom, but America resolved to show the world our true strength, which is the compassionate, decent heart of the American people.

It is such an honor to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. Thank you for coming out to say hello to Laura and me, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:17 p.m. in Hangar 3 at the base. In his remarks, he referred to Col. Doug Miller, USAF, vice commander, 3d Wing; Lt. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, USAF, commander, Alaskan Command; Col. Richard Nickerson, USA, Alaska Chief of Staff; Gov. Tony Knowles of Alaska; Mayor George Wuerch of Anchorage; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Remarks to the Republican Party of Alaska in Anchorage

February 16, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you, Governor—I mean—[*laughter*]. Thank you all for coming. Listen, I’ve been in Alaska long enough to remember when Edith Holmes sang “The Star Spangled Banner.” [*Laughter*] God rest her soul. I actually met Edith when I was living in Fairbanks in 1974. I had the privilege of voting in the Republican primary in 1974. As you know, you’ve got a one-month residency requirement, and I met it. So I

voted. I can’t remember who I voted for, but I was a proud participant. I know I’m the only President ever to have voted in any kind of primary in Alaska. [*Laughter*]

But I have such fond memories of Fairbanks and the Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage. And as you know, there was a period of time when you had kind of weak immigration laws and a lot of Texans came up here—[*laughter*—many of whom were my friends. But such a fabulous State. And thanks for such warm hospitality. And who said your three electoral votes didn’t matter? [*Laughter*]

I’m real thrilled to be traveling with Laura, obviously. The last time I went overseas, she didn’t go. It was right after 9/11. I went to Shanghai for a quick meeting and came back. Now the people of the Far East are going to get to see a fabulous wife and a great mother and a great First Lady for the country.

I do want to thank all those folks who put this on today, and I particularly want to thank the members of the Alaska congressional delegation: Senator Stevens, Senator Murkowski, and Congressman Young. These are three very accomplished, capable, smart people who also have got a little bit of seniority, which helps. [*Laughter*]

But Senator Stevens, I wish he were here because I would like for him to hear what I am going to say about him. He is a—he’s a great legislator who loves America, and he is smart, and I really, really enjoyed working with him. He is a wonderful representative of the State of Alaska, obviously. But those of you who know Ted Stevens, you can’t pigeonhole him just for one State. He really cares deeply about the Nation, as does Frank.

And Don Young and I worked a lot of times together on this airport security bill. And it’s a good piece of legislation, and he deserves a lot of credit for seizing a moment and getting some good legislation through. It was a period of time when it was so important for the country to see that the Government was actually doing something constructive at home to make—to kind of ease the nerves of the American people. And Don did a really good job of working that issue. And

I was proud to sign the bill that he had a major hand in getting to my desk.

And I also want to thank all the statehouse folks and the mayor, George W.—another George W.—[laughter]—there he is. But it's a thrill for us to be here.

We're on our way, obviously, to Japan, South Korea, and China. It's an important trip, because we've got a lot in common with those nations. We've got trading interests. And as I mentioned in the speech over there, that one of the things I am going to continually remind these nations, that trade ought to be a two-way street, you know, that if we open up our market, they ought to open up theirs. And I will work hard to do that, because we have got a competitive advantage in a lot of important areas, and one of which is agriculture. I truly believe that it is in our Nation's interests and the world's interests that we tear down these barriers to trade, so that we can feed people who are hungry.

I'm also going to talk about our values. The world obviously knows that we're willing to defend values, the values of freedom. And I'll explain to the leaders firsthand my absolute determination to do that.

I told the country at different times right after September the 11th that the farther we got away from the date, it's likely that people would grow weary and tired of the efforts. Not me, nor my administration. History has called us into action, and action is where we'll be. We've laid out a pretty clear set of objectives early on in the war against terror but—all focused on defending freedom. And it's as simple as that. It's good versus evil, and freedom is under attack.

My job, obviously, covers a lot of fronts, but there's nothing more important than the security of the American people and to prevent an attack. And as much as I wish I didn't have to say this, I still believe we are under attack. And I see threats every morning. Having said that, you can rest assured we're doing everything in our power to keep America safe. Everything possible, obviously, within the confines of the Constitution, we're doing.

And I'm proud to report that the team is really working hard. You know, when I first came into office—or, not first came into office—well, first came into office, and actually

right around the September the 11th period—the FBI's function was really to run down spies or white-collar criminals. And there's nothing wrong with that; that's an important function of the FBI. But I can tell you with certainty they've got a new major focus, and that's preventing an attack. We've got over 4,000 FBI agents around the country that are working hand in glove with State and local authorities, just to give—just to keep running down every lead and every hint and every opportunity to keep the country safe. And we are. And I'm pleased with the efforts being made.

But I'm also a realistic fellow. And I know that in the long term, in order to keep America safe, we've got to keep this vast coalition we've put together and rout out terror wherever it hides and wherever it exists. And that's what we're going to do. That's what we're going to do.

The amazing thing for me is that the country is so patient and so determined and so resolved. And I am very grateful for that, as I'm sure you can imagine. It is such a powerful feeling to know that I represent a great land that is united in our efforts to secure freedom.

The other thing that I find interesting is that not only are we going to leave the world a safer and freer place, but I believe the culture is beginning to change. And one of the reasons I first ran for office in Texas and then eventually the Presidency was, I was concerned about a culture which, as I said in my State of the Union, said, "If it feels good, do it." The second half of that is, "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." And my wish is, for the country, is that we usher in a period of personal responsibility.

That means, if you're a mother or a father, that your most important job is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul. That's really what a period of personal responsibility means; we all rededicate ourselves to the parenting, if we're fortunate enough to have a child. Or it means that you'll love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. Or if you're corporate America, it means you will have full disclosure on

all your assets and liabilities. *[Laughter]* Seriously, so that you don't mislead your shareholders or employees. There's certain responsibility that comes to those of us who have been entrusted with people's lives, in my case, or corporate America's lives, or individual lives, and we must seize that moment.

And you know, I—probably the most meaningful moment for me was on Flight 93, when the guys get on the airplane, and they hear—they get the word that something's happening in Washington. The plane's hijacked. They tell their loved ones they love them; they say a prayer; and they drive the plane into the ground. It is kind of the epitome of taking responsibility to save somebody else's life. It's the ultimate sacrifice.

I believe the country is asking, you know, how best to make ourselves better. And as I said in the speech in there, one way to do that, obviously, is to practice acts of kindness. And it's that—it's the compilation of these acts of decency and responsibility that will eventually define America and eventually win the war against terror.

We've got some—besides the military, besides the budget items, there's obviously an issue that's relevant here to Alaska that I am passionate about, and that is energy. It is so important that our Nation be wise about our energy policy and be—first of all, we've got to conserve better, and we will. There's new technologies coming on that will enhance conservation, and that's important, no question about it. And the less energy we use and still are able to grow our economy, the less dependent we are on somebody else's energy.

But we've also got to explore at home, and there is no better place to do so than in Alaska. There is a myth that somehow the environment cannot be protected if you find natural gas. As a matter of fact, natural gas will help protect the environment. *[Laughter]* And it is—we've got to do everything in our power to send a clear message about reality, that nature and exploration can coexist in a positive way.

I want to thank the Teamsters. Jerry Hood traveled with us today, and I've met with Jimmy Hoffa. He understands that this is more than just national security. We're also

talking about people's jobs. This is a chance for people to get to work and to make a living and to put—and to help battle this recession that we face.

So I am—I told Frank—I mean, I can assure you, this is not only important for our national security interests; it's right for America that we pursue this. And obviously you don't need to persuade your—any elected officials here. But if you happen to know somebody else in Congress that seems reluctant, tell them the truth; tell them how it works; tell them how important it is for the country.

But we're having the time of our lives, and it's been an—as you can imagine, a fantastic experience in many ways, sad in many ways, very emotional for a period of time. But I've never been more optimistic about a country or a philosophy. I believe that philosophy that our party honors is one that heralds the individual, recognizes everybody has got potential, and that the job of the Government is to help people realize their potential. It's not to create wealth but an environment in which people are willing to take risks so that the entrepreneur can flourish, you can own your own business. We believe strongly in the freedoms that we adhere so closely to, that—we believe in private property rights and the rights of every citizen.

And so it's a proud moment for me to be able to represent the Republican philosophy to the United States but, more importantly, show that it works. It works for people.

And then so the tax cut that I campaigned on that we worked hard to get not only has made a huge difference in the lives of our citizens, but it came right at the right time. Just as the economy was, you know, declared stagnant and dead in the water, we got a tax cut going, which means people have got more money to spend, which means it's kind of a boost in the arm for our economy. And I wish I could say we're out of recession. I don't think we are. But there are some positive signs happening.

So, all in all, I guess what I'm telling you is, one, I love being your President. I want to thank you for helping me get there. And I am incredibly optimistic, optimistic about the country, optimistic about peace, optimistic about our future. I just feel so strong, and it's great to be a President of a land of

so many good people. And they don't even have to be Republican, as far as I'm concerned—[laughter]—people from all walks of life.

So thanks for greeting Laura and me. Thanks for giving us a good sendoff as we go on to this important foreign policy trip. And may God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in The Gathering Place at the Alaskan Native Heritage Center. In his remarks, he referred to Alaskan gubernatorial candidate Senator Frank H. Murkowski, who introduced the President; Mayor George Wuerch of Anchorage; and James P. Hoffa, general president, and Jerry Hood, special assistant to the general president on energy policy, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

**The President's News Conference
With Prime Minister Junichiro
Koizumi of Japan in Tokyo, Japan
February 18, 2002**

Prime Minister Koizumi. This is my fourth meeting with President Bush, and we engaged in very candid and very friendly talks, and very useful meeting it was. I was able to renew our friendship and cement further our relationship of trust and reaffirm the importance of Japan-U.S. alliance.

In the fight against terrorism, Japan, on its own initiative, has been cooperating with the United States and in cooperation with the international community to eradicate terrorism. And we shall continue with this firm resolve and firm stance to fight against terrorism in the days ahead, as well.

I expressed my respect for the strong leadership that President Bush has exercised to date. On September the 11th, these unforgivable terrorist acts took place. But in this fight against terrorism, we shall continue—we shall need to sustain our cooperation, and under international cooperation we need to carry forward this fight against terrorism.

On these points, again, we saw eye to eye. On the issue of Afghanistan, the roles that Japan and the United States play will differ, but we should complement each other in order to make our own contributions to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

Turning to East Asia, as a whole, the relationship between Japan and East Asia is important for the stability and the peace in the world. Japan attaches importance to our relations with China and Korea, and the close coordination between Japan and China and Japan and Korea is something that I would also like to work on to further strengthen.

On North Korea, Japan, through cooperation and coordination with the United States and Korea, would like to work on normalization of relations with North Korea.

With regard to China, we welcome China's accession to WTO, and it will be hosting Olympic games in the future, as well. And I very much hope that China will play important roles in the international community and also play its part in the international community, recognizing its important responsibilities. In considering the future of friendly ties between Japan and China and Japan and Korea, we also agree that Japan-U.S. relations would be very important.

And turning to economic issues, economic revitalization in Japan to imbue confidence once again in the Japanese economy, this is the greatest mission given to my Koizumi administration. Whether my support is high or low, I shall not slacken this structural reform efforts that I've made. This policy of structural reform will not change whatsoever. I explained this to President Bush, the measures against deflation and measures to prevent the financial unrest, but we will do all our best in this regard. So there will be absolutely no change to the structural reform efforts that the Koizumi administration has maintained. In fact, it may only be strengthened, but it will not change; the policy will not change.

Ten years ago, Japan perhaps was a little overconfident. Today, Japan has lost confidence in itself. But Japan has to regain confidence in itself, and with hope, if we work on the structural reform, then definitely Japan shall be able to revive its economy. And the potentials of Japan can also come to the fore. And it is to that end that the Koizumi administration has been working on structural reform. And President Bush has shown his understanding towards this and

has expressed his strong support for this policy of mine.

On global challenges, there is the global warming issue and Kyoto Protocol question. The United States has come up with a very positive proposal. The problems of environment and the problems of economy, these should proceed hand in hand, and they should not run counter to each other. On the future problems of the globe, the technological development in the interest of the environment will produce economic growth.

So economy and the environment do not run against each other. Rather, efforts to improve the environment will bring about science and technology—development in science and technology and, thus, also generate greater economic development. This perspective should not be lost.

Japan will aim at achieving both economic growth and environmental improvements. So Japan welcomes the positive proposal on global environment issue, and we appreciate the stance shown by the United States to contribute on that front, and we'll expect greater efforts in that respect.

On the environmental questions, economic questions, and so on, in these broad areas Japan wishes to engage in discussions with the United States and cooperate with the U.S. So I was able to have very candid exchange of views on all these and numerous other issues.

This, as I said, was our fourth meeting, but I feel as if we've met each other umpteen times already. In fact, we were able to exchange views on almost anything. Our relations are built on a deep mutual trust, and building on that, we'd like to further develop our relations. And I believe it will be important for Japan and the United States to cooperate on these and numerous other issues, because in doing so we'll contribute not just to Japan and the United States but to the entire world as well. And I think it was a great meeting.

President Bush. Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister. It is a real pleasure and honor to begin my trip to Asia here in Japan. And the reason why our first stop is here in Japan is because Japan is one of America's greatest and truest friends.

I also want to thank my friend the Prime Minister. He is a man whose word I trust, a man whose advice I seek, and a person with whom I've got good personal relations. And I want to thank you for your friendship and your generous hospitality.

I believe the U.S.-Japanese alliance is the bedrock for peace and prosperity in the Pacific. Japan is a generous host to America's forward-deployed forces, providing an essential contribution to the stability of Asia. This enduring partnership benefits both our countries, but it also benefits the world. The peace of the world is now threatened by global terror. And we have had no better friend, and nobody provides such steadfast support than the Japanese Government.

I remember the phone call, Mr. Prime Minister, you gave me when I was in the Oval Office. It meant so much to hear—in this right after 9/11, it meant so much to hear your voice and your steadfast support, which has not wavered. And I want to thank you and the Japanese people for that.

Japan also understands that in order to complete the first theater in the war against terror, that we must help Afghanistan rebuild. And I want to thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, and your government for hosting a very important conference. Today we had a—we spent some—a good deal of time talking about how to make sure that the Afghanistan of today, the post-Taliban Afghanistan, is stable and has a chance to achieve prosperity and security and peace for her citizens. And Japan plays an incredibly important role in that.

Japan also has aided people throughout the world. Japan is a generous nation, helping the developing nations with health and education needs, and for that we are also very grateful.

Prime Minister Koizumi and I not only reaffirmed the importance of the Japanese-United States security alliance; we also talked about our economies. I told him that our economy is still in a recession, but there are some hopeful signs that we're recovering. There are some signs that the tax relief plan that we put in place is having a positive effect, so that we're beginning to see some growth.

I also, obviously, talked to him about his strategy for the Japanese economy. And he mentioned about confidence. Well, let me tell you what my confidence level is like: I'm confident in this man's leadership ability; I'm confident in his strategy; and I'm confident in his desire to implement that strategy. And when he implements the strategy, it will help Japan's economy a lot. And that's important. It's important not only for our bilateral relations; it is important for the world's second largest economy to grow. It'll help the region, and it will help the world.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, it is my honor to come to your beautiful country. I want to thank you very much for your hospitality. Laura thanks you for your hospitality, as well. And I look forward to our meeting tonight and the chance to speak to the Diet tomorrow. And as importantly, I look forward to meeting the Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and the Empress.

Thank you, sir.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Thank you very much. Do you have any questions, please?

Reforming Japan's Economy

Q. First, a question for President Bush. In the early meeting, did you make any specific—did you ask the Prime Minister to take any specific actions on the Japanese economy? Much is said about the triple lows for the Japanese economy, and some speak of an impending financial crisis. Which would you like Japan to give priority to, structural reform or antideflation measures? And Prime Minister Koizumi, what sort of balance do you intend to strike?

President Bush. First of all, before I had a chance to bring up the economy, the Prime Minister brought up the economy. In our private discussion, he said, "I want to make it very clear to you exactly what I intend to do." And he talked about nonperforming loans, the deflation^o issue, and regulatory reform, and he placed equal emphasis on all three.

And I'm not here to give advice. I'm here to lend support. When he looked me in the eye and told me that he is going to take measures necessary to improve in all three re-

gions, I believe him. I believe that's his intent. And that is good news, because it's going to require a strong leader to deal with the difficult problems facing the Japanese economy.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister?

Prime Minister Koizumi. He asked about structural reform or measures against deflation. That question, itself, I think is built on a wrong perception. Whatever the situation may be, Japan needs to carry through its structural reform. Of course, there are many activities that are going on where Government is not involved, and we can invite the private sector to come into areas that were covered by the Government, and we should carry forward regulatory reform, as well. And there will be, of course, confrontation with the vested interest.

Whatever measures we may take, financial measures or deflationary measures or fiscal policy measures or what, changes will not take place. So it's not really a question of which should be given priority, structural reform or deflationary measures. Whatever the situation may be, we have to implement a structural reform. So the Koizumi administration will never slacken its efforts to work on structural reform.

I hope you understand that point full well. Some might think that I'm going to shift from structural reform measures. I'm aware of those voices, but that will never happen. Whatever the situation, structural reform needs to be implemented, and without that, there cannot be economic revival of Japan.

And having said that, deflationary measures or monetary easing, these are measures needed to accelerate structural reform. So whatever the situation may be, I will never slacken the structural reform.

Q. Mr. President, you expressed confidence in the Prime Minister again today. But he's been in office for about a year now, and he's been unable to enact structural reforms. Why do you think it's taken so long for the Japanese Government to enact the reforms you're talking about?

And to the Prime Minister, you called the President's alternative to Kyoto a positive proposal. That given, do you think the world's environment would have been better off if America had signed on to Kyoto?

^o White House correction.

President Bush. The second question is moot. What was the first question? [*Laughter*]

Q. Why has it taken——

President Bush. Oh, that's right, yes. Listen, sometimes it is very difficult to get a reform package done in any society, but particularly structural reform. And what the Prime Minister is proposing is a bold agenda, and it takes somebody who's willing to spend capital, political capital, to get the agenda done.

So I am—my main focus of this meeting was to judge intent and desire and willingness to work hard to achieve a bold agenda. And having listened to the Prime Minister at length today and looked him in the eye, I feel very confident that that's precisely what he is going to do, pursue a bold agenda.

And sometimes it is not easy to get others to follow, but that's his job, is to lead. And he knows that. And that's why, one, I like him a lot, because I appreciate bold leadership. And secondly, he is going to stay the course, and that's important as well.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Well, some might say we're slow, but we're moving steadily. It's been less than one year. Many people say there haven't been tangible results. But look at Thatcher reform or Reagan reform; none of these reforms were achieved within a year or two. In fact, the results of the Reagan reform came to fruition after he had retired. So it's been less than one year, and I would like to say that we are making steady progress. Of course, in certain areas we can achieve results in 9 or 10 months. But I hope you understand that there are areas where we have been making steady progress. Of course, there is a need for coordination with the Diet, with the parliament. And there are areas where we cannot proceed without their approval, but we are proceeding steadily. And of course, we are striving to move forward our reform, but we're not falling behind at all.

As for the Kyoto Protocol, Japan has been very tough on the environmental questions, and we've been very active. I certainly understand the circumstances in the United States, but of course we will continue to work so that we can cooperate with the United States. It is a question for the United States to de-

cide whether to take part in the protocol or not, but I hope we will continue with our efforts so that we can move in the same direction, as I said earlier. Both the economy and the environment can be improved together, and we'd like to see further efforts on the part of the United States.

Iraq, Iran, and North Korea

Q. A question for President Bush. You referred to Iraq as the axis of evil. And I wonder if in the meeting you referred to the possibility of exercising force and, if so, what did you say? And what role would you expect of Japan?

Mr. Koizumi, if the U.S. really exercises force, what specifically would Japan do?

President Bush. [*Inaudible*]*—*talked about my speech I gave to the Congress. Japan is one of our strongest allies and close friend. And I explained to the Prime Minister that there are some nations in the world which want to develop weapons that will hurt the United States and/or our friends and allies, and we've got to stop them from doing so.

I also reminded him, in the speech I talked about the need for nations to come together, to work together. And I reiterate that, that we've got a coalition of freedom-loving nations that can work together to, hopefully, help them change their behavior. I also explained to him that all options are on the table and that I will keep all options on the table.

Other than that, there are—there's nothing else to talk about. We want to resolve all issues peacefully, whether it be Iraq, Iran, or North Korea, for that matter. And as you know, I'm going to the Korean Peninsula to talk about that very subject. On the one side of a parallel, we've got people starving to death because a nation chooses to build weapons of mass destruction; and on the other side, there's freedom. And it's important for those of us who love freedom to work with nations to convince them to choose freedom.

But I've also said that they should make no mistake about it, that we will defend our interests, and I will defend the American people. And that's what we talked about.

Prime Minister Koizumi. With regard to this axis of evil, again we exchanged our views very frankly. Iraq, Iran, North Korea, we exchanged our views regarding these countries very candidly.

The expression “axis of evil,” I believe, reflects the firm resolve of President Bush and the United States against terrorism. President Bush, I believe, has been very calm and cautious vis-a-vis Iraq, Iran, and North Korea. He will not exclude any possibilities in order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to prevent terrorism. He will resort to all possible means to fight against terrorism, and I believe this resolve was behind the expression “axis of evil.”

Now, this fight against terrorism is not going to be a short one. I understand it’s going to be a drawn out and tough fight. And Japan, together with the United States and the international community, will, on its own initiative, cooperate very actively. And I believe Japan’s role in the fight against or eradication of terrorism will be very important. And Japan shall continue to support the United States. So that’s the sort of exchange of views we had.

Nature of the Coalition

Q. Mr. President, the French Foreign Minister called your “axis of evil” remarks simplistic, and a top European Union official has accused you of taking an absolutist position on this. If you do not get the kind of support that you just suggested from your allies, is the United States willing to go it alone?

President Bush. Well, first of all, the Secretary of State had, I thought, an interesting reply to the French Foreign Minister. And you might want to ask him afterwards what he meant by “vapors.”

People who love freedom understand that we cannot allow nations that aren’t transparent, nations with a terrible history, nations that are so dictatorial they’re willing to starve their people—we can’t allow them to mate up with terrorist organizations. In the war against terror, one of the worst things that could possibly happen is Al Qaida-like organizations becoming allied and operationally attuned to nations which develop—which have a weapon of mass destruction. Free-

dom-loving people understand that, and I’m going to continue making the case.

Now, listen, I understand what happens in the international arena; people say things. But the leaders I’ve talked to fully understand, exactly, what needs to happen. They understand the resolve of the United States of America. They understand that our commitment is not just in Afghanistan, that history has given us a unique opportunity to defend freedom. And we’re going to seize the moment and do it.

And I’m confident nations will come with us. Right here is a Prime Minister that has said he’s our friend; he is a part of a coalition; and he’s going to be steady in our coalition. And for that I’m very grateful. And the other world leaders I have talked to have expressed the same resolve and determination. And so I don’t accept the hypothesis of your question.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Thank you very much. This concludes the press conference.

President Bush. But never mind. [*Laughter*] Thank you all.

NOTE: The President’s news conference began at 2:07 p.m. in the Prime Minister’s Residence. Prime Minister Koizumi spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, the President referred to Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan; and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hubert Vedrine of France. The President also referred to the Tokyo donors conference, the January 20–21 meeting of 61 nations which pledged \$4.5 billion for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Prime Minister Koizumi referred to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Remarks to the Diet in Tokyo

February 19, 2002

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Prime Ministers, distinguished members of the Diet, Ambassador and Mrs. Baker, Secretary Colin Powell and the American delegation, Japanese delegation, distinguished representatives of the great people of Japan: Laura and I are honored to be here. And thank you so very much for your invitation, and thank you

very much for the generous reception. Thank you so very much for the kind and generous reception that we have been shown by the Japanese people.

We look forward to the great honor of meeting Their Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and Empress, later on today. And we bring to you the respect and good wishes of the American people.

A century ago, our two countries were beginning to learn from and about one another after a long period of suspicion and mistrust. The great Japanese scholar and statesman Inazo Nitobe, a man who understood both our peoples, envisioned a future of friendship as he wrote, "I want to become a bridge across the Pacific." That bridge has been built, not by one man but by millions of Americans and Japanese.

My trip to Asia begins here in Japan for an important reason. It begins here because for a century and a half now, America and Japan have formed one of the great and enduring alliances of modern times. From that alliance has come an era of peace in the Pacific. And in that peace, the world has witnessed the broad advance of prosperity and democracy throughout east Asia.

From its very birth, our alliance has been based on common interests, common responsibilities, and common values. The bonds of friendship and trust between our two people were never more evident than in the days and months after September the 11th. We were grateful, so very grateful, for the condolences and compassion of the Japanese people and the Japanese Government. We were especially touched—especially touched that the people of Ehime Prefecture sent a donation to the families of victims, showing empathy for loss, even when their own loss was so recent. This is a gesture of friendship my Nation will never forget.

Last fall in Shanghai, the Prime Minister gave me a special gift, a samurai arrow in a box in which the Prime Minister had written, "The arrow to defeat the evil and bring peace to the Earth." He also said, "This is a fight we have to win to ensure the survival of freedom."

I assured him then, and I assure you today, freedom will prevail. Civilization and ter-

rorism cannot coexist, and by defeating terror, we will defend the peace of the world.

Japan and America are working to find and disrupt terrorist cells. Your diplomats helped build a worldwide coalition to defend freedom. Your Self-Defense Forces are providing important logistical support, and your generosity is helping to rebuild a liberated Afghanistan.

Your response to the terrorist threat has demonstrated the strength of our alliance and the indispensable role of Japan that is global, and that begins in Asia. The success of this region is essential to the entire world, and I'm convinced the 21st century will be the Pacific century.

Japan and America share a vision for the future of the Asia-Pacific region as a fellowship of free Pacific nations. We seek a peaceful region where no power or coalition of powers endangers the security or freedom of other nations, where military force is not used to resolve political disputes. We seek a peaceful region where the proliferation of missiles and weapons of mass destruction do not threaten humanity. We seek a region with strong institutions of economic and political cooperation that is open to trade and investment on a global scale, a region in which people and capital and information can move freely, breaking down barriers and creating bonds of progress, ties of culture, and momentum toward democracy. We seek a region in which demilitarized zones and missile batteries no longer separate people with a common heritage and a common future.

Realizing this vision, a fellowship of free Pacific nations, will require Japan and America to work more closely together than ever before. Our responsibilities are clear. Fortunately, our alliance has never been stronger.

America, like Japan, is a Pacific nation, drawn by trade and values and history to be a part of Asia's future. We stand more committed than ever to a forward presence in this region. We will continue to show American power and purpose in support of the Philippines, Australia, and Thailand. We will deter aggression against the Republic of Korea. Together, Japan and the United States will strengthen our ties of security. America will remember our commitments to the people on Taiwan. And to help protect

the people of this region and our friends and allies in every region, we will press on with an effective program of missile defenses.

In a few days, I'll visit China. America, like Japan, welcomes a China that is stable and prosperous and at peace with its neighbors. We're grateful for China's cooperation in the war against terror. We both supported China's entry into the World Trade Organization. And we will work with China in the great task of building a prosperous and stable Asia for our children and for our grandchildren.

In the United States, China will find a partner in trade. China will find the respect it deserves as a great nation. And America will find—and China will find that America speaks for the universal values that gave our Nation birth, the rule of law, the freedom of conscience and religion, and the rights and dignity of every life. Those are the values of my country, and those are the values of our alliance.

America and Japan have joined to oppose danger and aggression. We have also joined to bring aid and hope to those who struggle throughout the developing world. We are the world's two largest economies and the two most generous contributors of economic and humanitarian aid. Japan's commitment to development is known and honored throughout the world. So is Japan's leading role in great international institutions, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the G-8, among others.

The challenges of development are often deep and difficult, persistent poverty, widespread illiteracy, terrible disease. Money is necessary. Yet money alone will not solve these problems. Lasting help will come as we help to rebuild honest government and effective law enforcement, quality schools and quality hospitals and growing economies. Progress will require a long-term commitment, and we both must provide it.

In the months ahead, our nations will take part in two world summits focused on development. Japan and the United States should work to expand our partnerships with the private sectors, to reform international financial institutions, to improve access to education for boys and girls in Asia and Africa and in the Middle East. In all our efforts we must

put resources where they do the most good, with the people and the communities we are trying to help.

Our two countries have unique strengths and a unique opportunity to combine them for the benefit of the world. In science, we're exploring new technologies to produce energy while protecting the environment. In medicine, we're exploring the human genome and nearing treatments and cures to extend lives and relieve suffering.

Japan is making these great contributions even in a time of economic uncertainty and transition that has caused some to question whether your nation can maintain these commitments and your leadership in the world. I have no such questions, and I'm confident that Japan's greatest era lies ahead.

Japan has some of the most competitive corporations and some of the most educated and motivated workers in the world. And Japan, thanks to my friend the Prime Minister, is on the path to reform. I value my relationship with the Prime Minister. He is a leader who embodies the energy and determination of his country. He and I have had very good visits. I trust him. I enjoy his sense of humor. *[Laughter]* I consider him a close friend. He reminds me of a new American star, Ichiro. *[Laughter]* The Prime Minister can hit anything you throw at him. *[Laughter]*

Over the years we Americans have seen our share of economic challenges. In the late seventies and early eighties, our competitiveness was weak; our banks were in trouble; high taxes and needless regulation discouraged risktaking and strangled innovation. America overcame these difficulties by reducing taxes and by reducing regulations. We moved nonperforming loans to market, making way for new investment. As we made reforms, foreign investors regained faith in us, especially investors from Japan.

We learned that, in times of crisis and stagnation, it is better to move forward boldly with reform and restructuring than to wait, hoping that old practices will somehow work again. Through bold action, we emerged a better and stronger economy, and so will you.

Over the past few years, Americans have increased our investments in Japan, further binding our nations and showing confidence

in your future. Japan has a proud history of moving forward, not through revolutions but through restorations.

One of the heroes of the Meiji Restoration, Yukichi Fukuzawa, was a student of the economic ideas that transformed the Western world. He saw these ideas spark prosperity and lift millions out of poverty, and he sought to introduce them to his people. As he translated an influential economics textbook into Japanese, he came across an English word with no Japanese equivalent, "competition". So he coined a new word, "kyoso," and forever enriched the Japanese language.

But kyoso is more than just a word. It is a spirit and an ethic. It is an engine that drives innovation and unleashes the potential of free people. More than a century ago, competition helped propel Japanese economy into the modern era. A half-century ago, it accelerated the Japanese postwar economic miracle admired by the world. Now Japan has embarked on a new restoration, a restoration of prosperity and economic growth through fundamental reform and the full embrace of competition.

In all the work that lies ahead, in the defense of freedom, in the advance of development, in the work of reform, you'll have a firm ally in the American Government, and you'll have a constant friend in the American people.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the Chamber of the House of Councillors. In his remarks, he referred to Tamisuke Watanuki, Speaker, House of Representatives; Yutaka Inoue, President, House of Councillors; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard H. Baker, Jr., and his wife, former Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker; Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan; and Ichiro Suzuki, right fielder, Seattle Mariners.

The President's News Conference With President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea in Seoul, South Korea

February 20, 2002

President Kim. I would like to give my presentation. First, on behalf of the Korean people, I would like to warmly welcome President Bush and thank him for taking time out of the war against terrorism to visit our country. This visit is the first by President Bush since his Inauguration, and it is also the first by an American President in the 21st century. It is for this reason that this visit will lay the foundation for future progress in Korean-U.S. relations in this century.

During today's meeting, President Bush and I recognized that the Korea-U.S. alliance is indispensable not only for stability on the Korean Peninsula but also in Northeast Asia as a whole. Furthermore, President Bush and I expressed satisfaction that the bilateral alliance is not limited to cooperation in security matters but that the comprehensive partnership has expanded and developed to all areas, including political, economic, and diplomatic arenas.

President Bush and I exchanged views about the war against terrorism and future course of action. I praised President Bush for the success in the war against terrorism under his outstanding leadership and indicated that Korea as an ally would do its utmost to cooperate and provide full support.

President Bush and I agreed to work with mutually consistent objectives and strategies in close consultation in pursuing the North Korean policy. I greatly appreciate President Bush's staunch support for our sunshine policy, as well as the U.S.'s unconditional proposal to dialog with North Korea.

President Bush and I also discussed in-depth issues related to the threat of WMD proliferation, such as the possibility of terrorists obtaining WMDs, and U.S. efforts to deter their spread across the world. In this regard, we also concurred that the objective is to resolve the issue of North Korean

WMDs and missiles at an early date through dialog. To this end, we agreed that Korea-U.S. joint efforts were necessary.

President Bush and I concurred that continued expansion and progress of bilateral, economic, and trade relations are in the interest of both our countries. Furthermore, we also agreed to further deepen cooperative relations at the multilateral level, such as the WTO Doha development agenda.

I am more than satisfied with the frank and open exchange of views I had with President Bush this morning on numerous issues. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to President Bush for the interest he has expressed in peace on the Korean Peninsula, for the unparalleled affection he has for Korea, as well as the efforts and enthusiasm he has demonstrated in the development of bilateral relations.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President. It is such an honor to be here. Laura and I are grateful for your hospitality and the hospitality of First Lady Hee-ho. We look forward to a full day in your beautiful country.

The President is right; we had a great meeting. It was so good that we didn't want to go into the meeting room where there was more people. We had a very frank exchange. And that's important when you're friends, to be able to discuss issues in depth.

A lot of times I find in the diplomatic world that people want to gloss over issues; they don't want to spend much time really understanding each other's positions. Because of our friendship, because of the friendship between our countries, we had a very frank exchange and a positive exchange, and one that allows me to safely say that this relationship is 50 years old, the relationship between South Korea and America, and it's seen a lot of problems. And we've dealt with those problems together. And I'm confident we'll be dealing with problems 50 years from now in a spirit of cooperation and openness.

I understand how important this relationship is to our country, and the United States is strongly committed to the security of South Korea. We'll honor our commitments. Make no mistake about it that we stand firm behind

peace in the Peninsula. And no one should ever doubt that, Mr. President. No one should ever doubt that this is a vital commitment for our Nation.

It's also vital that we continue to trade together. And so we obviously discussed issues of the—security issues on the Peninsula. We also discussed ways to make sure our trade was more open and fair to both sides. I'm very impressed by the amount of investment capital, foreign capital that has come into South Korea in the last 4 years. It's a testimony to a country that understands open markets and freedom. And I'm going up to the DMZ here in a little bit, and it's going to be an interesting contrast, to talk about the benefits and the dividends of freedom. And part of those is an economy that is vibrant and improving, thanks to structural reforms.

I assured the President we're doing everything we can in our country, as well, to make sure our economy recovers. It's hard to be a good trading partner if you don't have a good economy, and we're beginning to see signs that there's economic vitality in America, which will be good for our partners here in South Korea as well.

And of course, we talked about North Korea. And I made it very clear to the President that I support his sunshine policy. And I'm disappointed that the other side, the North Koreans, will not accept the spirit of the sunshine policy.

We talked about family reunifications, the displaced family initiative that he started, which I think is a great initiative. And yet only 3,600 families, I believe it was, have been allowed to reunite. I asked him how many—what's the potential—what are the potential families on both sides of the DMZ that could reunite. He said, 10 million people.

In order to make sure there's sunshine, there needs to be two people, two sides involved. And I praised the President's efforts. And I wonder out loud why the North Korean President won't accept the gesture of good will that the South Korean President has so rightfully offered. And I told him that we, too, would be happy to have a dialog with the North Koreans. I've made that offer, and yet there has been no response.

Some in this country are—obviously have read about my very strong comments about the nature of the regime. And let me explain why I made the comments I did. I love freedom. I understand the importance of freedom in people's lives. I'm troubled by a regime that tolerates starvation. I worry about a regime that is closed and not transparent. I'm deeply concerned about the people of North Korea. And I believe that it is important for those of us who love freedom to stand strong for freedom and make it clear the benefits of freedom.

And that's exactly why I said what I said about the North Korean regime. I know what can happen when people are free; I see it right here in South Korea. And I'm passionate on the subject, and I believe so strongly in the rights of the individual that I, Mr. President, will continue to speak out. Having said that, of course, as you and I discussed, we're more than willing to speak out publicly and speak out in private with the North Korean leadership. And again, I wonder why they haven't taken up our offer.

This is going to be a great visit for us, Mr. President. It's going to be a great visit because it's a chance for me to say clearly to the South Korean people: We value our friendship; we appreciate your country; we share the same values; and we'll work together to make sure that our relationship improves even better as we go into the 21st century.

Mr. President, thank you, sir.

North Korea

Q. First, I have a question for President Kim. There is a difference between the axis of evil and the sunshine policy. Do you feel that the gap was overcome during this summit? And right now, the Korean people are concerned about how inter-Korean relations will develop following the summit. How do you perceive the inter-Korean relations to develop in the future?

President Kim. In my view, I believe that the U.S. policy and the Korean policy are fundamentally similar, and there are no major differences. We both believe in democracy and a market economy. Furthermore, we are allies. Korea and the U.S. are strong allies, and I believe that this is impor-

tant and vital for the national interest of both our countries. And so that's our top priority.

Furthermore, in matters related to North Korea, regarding the WMD or missiles or nuclear issues, our views have coincided. And during the summit meeting this morning, I believe that there was no difference in opinion between our two leaders. And we believe that it is through dialog that we will be able to resolve this issue, and we agreed on this point.

Therefore, recently in the press, there were some indications that there might be some difference of opinion. But during the conversation that I had this morning with President Bush, we were able to reconfirm that there is no difference of opinion between Korea and the U.S. And in the future, regarding North Korean issues, we were able to reaffirm that we have made the proposal to North Korea to dialog, and it is through dialog that we hope to resolve all of the issues. And so we hope that North Korea will, at an early date, accept our proposal and that inter-Korean dialog and dialog between North Korea and the U.S. will resume.

On September 15th, there was the fifth inter-Korean interministerial meeting, and several issues were decided. There were 10 agreements made regarding the meeting of separated families and the relinking of the Kyongui railroad line, and we are implementing these agreements. Thank you.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. Mr. Jim Angle from Fox Television.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, some South Koreans, perhaps even President Kim, had some concerns about your comments about the axis of evil and North Korea. How do you think your approach fits with and helps the sunshine policy?

And if I may, President Kim, did you have any misgivings, sir, about the President including North Korea in the axis of evil? And secondly, why do you think that North Korea is genuine about opening up? We have heard here about their failure to participate in the reunification of families. They haven't built their end of the rail line, and they refuse to talk to the U.S. What makes you think they're sincere in wanting to open up?

President Bush. You know, during our discussion, President Kim reminded me a little bit about American history, when he said that President Reagan referred to Russia as the “evil empire,” and yet, was then able to have constructive dialog with Mr. Gorbachev.

I will believe—I will not change my opinion on the man, on Kim Chong-il, until he frees his people and accepts genuine proposals from countries such as South Korea or the United States to dialog, until he proves to the world that he’s got a good heart, that he cares about the people that live in his country.

I am concerned about a country that is not transparent, that allows for starvation, that develops weapons of mass destruction. I care very deeply about it because it is in the neighborhood of one of our very close friends. I don’t see—and so, therefore, I think the burden of proof is on the North Korean leader, to prove that he does truly care about people and that he is not going to threaten our neighbor.

We’re peaceful people. We have no intention of invading North Korea. South Korea has no intention of attacking North Korea, nor does America. We’re purely defensive. And the reason we have to be defensive is because there is a threatening position on the DMZ. But we long for peace. It is in our nations’ interest that we achieve peace on the Peninsula.

I also want to remind the world that our Nation provides more food to the North Korean people than any nation in the world. We are averaging nearly 300,000 tons of food a year. And so, obviously, my comments about evil was toward a regime, toward a government, not toward the North Korean people. We have great sympathy and empathy for the North Korean people. We want them to have food. And at the same time, we want them to have freedom. And we will work in a peaceful way to achieve that objective.

That was the purpose of our summit today, to reconfirm that our Nation—my Nation is interested in a peaceful resolution of the—here on the Korean Peninsula. And at the same time, of course, I made it clear that we would honor our commitments to help South Korea defend herself if need be.

I think we had a question for the President.

President’s Upcoming Visit to China

Q. Mr. Mike Allen of the Washington Post.

President Bush. He got cut off, I think. He just got filibustered. [Laughter]

Q. Mr. President, in Beijing, do you plan to meet with any political dissidents or Christian activists? How did you decide that? And what do you plan to do to try to persuade the Chinese Government to extend more rights to these individuals?

President Bush. Mike, I am not exactly sure of all the details of my schedule yet, since I’m focused here on this incredibly important relationship. I can tell you that in my last visit with President Jiang, I shared with him my faith. I talked to him on very personal terms about my Christian beliefs. I explained to him that faith had an incredibly important part in my life, and it has a very important part in the lives of all kinds of citizens and that I would hope that he, as a President of a great nation, would understand the important role of religion in an individual’s life. That’s why I put it in that context.

I then segued into discussions about the Catholic Church, and I will do so again. I will bring up the need that there be a—that I would hope the Government would honor the request of the Papal Nuncio to be able to at least have dialog about bishops that are interned there. And I also talked about the Dalai Lama, as well as Christian faiths, and I will do so again.

As to what my schedule is and who I’m going to see, I’m not sure yet, Mike.

North Korea/South Korea-U.S. Summit

Q. I first have a question for President Bush. During your presentation you said that you are ready to dialog with North Korea at any time, anywhere. If North Korea accepts, then will you continue with the economic aid to North Korea? And also, in order to tell Pyongyang that you are ready to dialog, are you willing to send an envoy?

My next question is to President Kim. You said that you are satisfied with the summit meeting. What do you feel is the biggest achievement of the summit meeting?

President Bush. Well, first, dialog or no dialog, we will continue to send food to the North Korean people. I reiterate, our issue is not with the North Korean people. As a matter of fact, we have great sympathy for the North Korean people. Any people that live under a despotic regime is—has our sympathy. And so I presume that's the economic aid we're referring to. We will send food.

As to how any dialog were to begin, it obviously takes two willing parties. And as people in our Government know, last June, I made the decision that we would extend the offer for dialog. We just haven't heard a response back yet. And how we end up doing that is a matter of the diplomats. The great Secretary of State will be able to handle the details. But the offer stands, and if anybody's listening involved with the North Korean Government, they know that the offer is real, and I reiterate it today.

President Kim. Yes, at this morning's summit meeting, I believe that I am most satisfied with the fact that we were able to have a frank and open discussion, and we were able to reconfirm that we are close allies; not only are our two countries allies, but I believe that we have become close personal friends as well. And so I believe that we will be able to learn a lot from each other and that we will be able to understand each other more and better in the future. And we were able to have an open and frank dialog, and I am most satisfied about that.

And the second point is that at today's summit meeting, even before we had the summit meeting, we had agreed that we would talk on the four main issues and that we wanted to have concrete results on four areas, and that is to reconfirm the Korea-U.S. alliance. The second was to fight against terrorism and that we would work on a global scale in order to uproot terrorism and that we would continue to cooperate in order to do so. And third is for the North Korean WMDs and missile issue must be resolved. And this is, more than any other country in the world, it is a matter directly related to the security issue of Korea. The fourth issue is that for inter-Korean relations, to resolve the current issues such as the WMDs and the missile issue, we must resolve these issues through dialog.

And so, regarding these four points, I concurred and I agreed with President Bush, and as was mentioned earlier, President Bush is more than ready to dialog with North Korea. And he has reiterated his position. And the Korean people, I believe, will be assuaged by this reiteration. And I believe that President Bush's visit to Korea will reaffirm the alliance between our two countries and will also lay the foundation for inter-Korean relations and improvement in those relations.

In the future, regarding economic issues, and also the Winter Olympics, which are being held in Salt Lake City, and also the World Cup, we are going to have to deal with security issues, and we agree that there will be a lot of cooperation between our two countries in order to ensure the security in those events.

This concludes the joint press conference. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:15 p.m. at the Blue House. In his remarks, he referred to President Kim's wife, Lee Hee-ho; Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea; and President Jiang Zemin of China. President Kim spoke in Korean, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks at the Dorasan Train Station in Dorasan, South Korea

February 20, 2002

Mr. President, it's a great honor to be here as your guest. Your love of democracy and example of courage have changed Korea, have challenged Asia, and inspired the great respect of my Government and my country. All your life you have seen the hope of change and progress where few could imagine it. You have shown that sometimes the conscience and will of a single individual can move history. I admire your visionary leadership, and I thank you for your hospitality to Laura and me.

We gather today surrounded by reminders of the challenges to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. President Kim has just shown me a road he built, a road for peace. And he's shown me where that road abruptly ends, right here at the DMZ. That road has

the potential to bring the peoples on both sides of this divided land together, and for the good of all the Korean people, the North should finish it.

Traveling south on that road, the people of the North would see not a threat but a miracle of peaceful development, Asia's third largest economy that has risen from the ruins of war. The people of the North would see more than physical wealth; they would see the creativity and spiritual freedom represented here today. They would see a great and hopeful alternative to stagnation and starvation. And they would find friends and partners in the rebuilding of their country.

South Korea is more than a successful nation; it is an example to the world. When nations embrace freedom, they find economic and social progress. When nations accept the rules of the modern world, they find the benefits of the modern world. And when nations treat men and women with dignity, they find true greatness.

When satellites take pictures of the Korean Peninsula at night, the South is awash in light. The North is almost completely dark. Kim Dae-jung has put forward a vision that can illuminate the whole Peninsula. We want all the Koreans to live in the light.

My vision is clear: I see a Peninsula that is one day united in commerce and cooperation, instead of divided by barbed wire and fear. Korean grandparents should be free to spend their final years with those they love. Korean children should never starve while a massive army is fed. No nation should be a prison for its own people. No Korean should be treated as a cog in the machinery of the state.

And as I stated before the American Congress just a few weeks ago, we must not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most dangerous weapons.

I speak for these convictions even as we hope for dialog with the North. America provides humanitarian food assistance to the people of North Korea, despite our concerns about the regime. We're prepared to talk with the North about steps that would lead to a better future, a future that is more hopeful and less threatening. But like this road left unbuilt, our offer has gone unanswered.

Someday, we all hope the stability of this Peninsula will be built on the reconciliation of its two halves. Yet today, the stability of this Peninsula is built on the great alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States.

All of Asia, including North Korea, knows that America will stand firmly—will stand firmly—with our South Korean allies. We will sustain our obligations with honor. Our forces and our alliance are strong, and this strength is the foundation of peace on the Peninsula.

American forces receive generous support from our South Korean hosts, and we are very grateful. Together, we are increasing the effectiveness of our military forces, even as U.S. troops become a less intrusive presence in Korea, itself.

Americans are also very grateful for the tremendous outpouring of sympathy and support shown by the South Korean people following the terror of September the 11th. Today, both our nations are cooperating to fight against terror, proving that our alliance is both regional and global.

The United States and South Korea are bound by common interests. Our alliance is defined by common values. We deeply value our own liberty, and we care about the liberty of others. Like the United States, South Korea has become a beacon of freedom, showing to the world the power of human liberty to bring down walls and uplift lives.

Today, across the mines and barbed wire, that light shines brighter than ever. It shines not as a threat to the North but as an invitation. People on both sides of this border want to live in freedom and want to live in dignity, without the threat of violence and famine and war. I hope that one day soon this hope will be realized. And when that day comes, all the people of Korea will find in America a strong and willing friend.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:55 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea.

**Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by
President Kim in Seoul, South Korea**
February 20, 2002

Mr. President, Madam First Lady, thank you all so very much for your such generous hospitality. Laura and I are honored to be here.

I'm told that in Korea, the color blue stands for elegance and dignity. Through your hospitality, Mr. President, these qualities are in abundance tonight.

Earlier today President Kim and I traveled to the Demilitarized Zone and saw the line where freedom begins and ends. I was reminded there of the tremendous sacrifices paid by both South Koreans and Americans in defending that line. I met with men and women from both our nations who defend that line today on behalf of everybody in this room. As always, their enthusiasm and dedication to duty and freedom and country was inspiring.

At the DMZ, President Kim and I also saw the railway and the road that symbolize our common hopes that families and commerce, culture and ideas may one day travel freely throughout the Peninsula. President Kim has offered the North a better way. He has offered them a vision of reconciliation over rivalry. He has offered them the chance to fulfill new hopes instead of feeding old suspicions. For the sake of all Koreans, I hope—and the American people hope—that the North does not miss this chance.

Mr. President, by your unyielding love for liberty, you have written on the pages of history a story of uncommon courage and determination. Sustained by your strong faith, you endured hardships that most can hardly imagine, all for a simple idea, the idea that freedom belongs to every person, not just every Korean or every American but every Asian and every person on this planet.

As you said in your Nobel lecture, and I quote, "Democracy is the absolute value that makes for human dignity, as well as the only road to sustain economic development and social justice."

President Kim, Laura and I thank you for your friendship and your warm hospitality, and the world thanks you for your leadership and your vision. The American people thank

you and the Korean people for the sympathy and support you have given our Nation during these past difficult months. And most of all, my country thanks South Korea for a half-century of friendship, a friendship that has brought great benefit to both our peoples, a friendship that has now matured into a great alliance for liberty.

My toast tonight is that, may God continue to bless Korea and America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:11 p.m. at the Blue House. In his remarks, he referred to President Kim's wife, Lee Hee-ho. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Kim.

**Remarks to the Troops at
Osan Air Base in Seoul**

February 21, 2002

The President. Thank you very much. Well, thank you for that warm welcome. My fellow Americans, I'm on my way to China, and I hope you don't mind me stopping by to say a few words. I also thought you might want to say hello to a great wife and a wonderful First Lady, my wife, Laura.

We are so delighted to be here. It gives me a chance to bring a message from home. Your family are proud of you, and so is America. You walk in the path of thousands of soldiers who fought for freedom in the Korean war and all who kept the peace for half a century. Many millions of people are safe from harm because you're here. You're a credit to the United States of America, and I want to thank you for that.

I'm proud to be traveling with members of the fabulous team I put together, anchored by our Secretary of State, Colin Powell. We're making a huge difference on the Peninsula, not only because of our military presence but because of our diplomatic presence. We've got a great Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Tom Hubbard, and his wife, Joan.

One time I was Governor of the great State of Texas. Now I know we're going to keep the peace. [Laughter] And I went to Fort Hood and got to meet General Thorpe. I knew him to be a strong man then. I'm sure

glad he's here now. He brings great credit to the United States military. Mr. General, thank you, sir.

It is an honor to be here with General Lance Smith, as well. Thank you for your hospitality. Thank you for putting us—I've got kind of a sweet spot in my heart for fighter pilots. I hope they're behaving well these days. *[Laughter]*

I'm honored to be here with Denny Larsen. And I'm honored to be here with David Clary, as well. I want to thank those from the ROK who are here, the leaders. But most of all, I want to thank my fellow citizens, the members of the United States military, for being strong and steady, to keep the peace.

It is such an honor to be traveling in Asia, representing our country. This is an important journey. We're stopping in the capitals of Japan and South Korea and then, in a couple of hours, in China. All three Governments are lending their support in our war against terror. It gives me a chance to look the leaders in the eye, to thank them on behalf of a grateful nation, for their steady and strong support, as this Nation leads a coalition to defend freedom.

My trip was scheduled here for October, but we changed it after America came under attack. We had to change our plans. But since then, the killers and the Government that sponsored them had to change their plans, too. A few months ago, Al Qaida and the terrorists occupied Afghanistan. Now some of them are in cells in Guantanamo Bay. Not long ago, they were urging their followers to sacrifice their lives. Now they're running for their own. Those who attacked us and those who still want to try to hurt us are beginning to realize they picked the wrong enemy. They thought we were soft. They thought we were so materialistic that we would not be willing to sacrifice. They didn't realize that we're a patient nation, that we're a deliberate nation.

And they're now beginning to realize that we're resolved to find the terrorists, wherever they hide, and rout them out. And as my fellow Americans, you need to know that we won't stop until the threat of global terrorism has been destroyed. We have been called to history. We must not stop. After all, we defend civilization itself. We didn't

ask for this war; we're a peaceful nation. But we will do everything in our power to defend freedom and the universal values that are so important to our Nation and so important to a peaceful world. I made this message clear to our enemy, and the mighty United States military is delivering it.

I'm proud to report America and our allies are committed to this cause. If you haven't been back to America lately, I want to tell you, our Nation is strongly united. This isn't a matter of political parties. We're talking about national purpose. The people of America understand it's going to take a while, but they're ready. We've accepted new responsibilities.

There's a new way of thinking in America. It was defined by flight—the actions on Flight 93, when several people aboard an airplane got the word that that airplane might be headed to the Capitol or the White House, but certainly headed to hurt a fellow American. They were on the telephone with their loved ones. They told them they loved them. They said a prayer. And then they said, "Let's roll."

There is a new spirit of sacrifice in America that understands that we must, in life, serve something greater than ourselves. And we're now called to defend freedom, and our allies understand that. And the United States military understands that, and freedom we will defend with all our might.

And that's what you're doing here on the Korean Peninsula, a free and peaceful nation, and its 47 million people count on you every day. And in this duty, the United States has a steady and courageous partner in the Republic of Korea.

During the years of partnership between our two countries, South Korea has become prosperous, and it has become strong. Its vibrant economy is an example of what free people and free institutions can achieve. And it shows the importance of America's presence in Asia.

The United States is a Pacific nation. History has led us here. Ties of commerce and friendship keep us here. And our friends and allies can be certain that we will always stand beside them. When America says, "We're your friend," we mean it.

We hope for a day when the stability of the Korean Peninsula is built on peaceful reconciliation of North and South. Today, however, the stability of this Peninsula is built on the military might of our great alliance. In our dealings with North Korea, we've laid down a clear marker. We will stand by the people of South Korea. We will maintain our presence here. And as I told the Congress and the world in my State of the Union messages, we will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us or our friends or our allies with weapons of mass destruction.

Those of you who are stationed here in Korea and members of our military throughout the world spend every day training and testing and preparing for any mission that may come. That's your responsibility, and you're the best in the world. And as your Commander in Chief, I have responsibilities to you to give clear orders, to set clear objectives, and to make sure you have everything you need to do your job.

So I'm asking Congress to pass more than a \$48 billion increase in our defense budget. It is the largest increase in military spending in a generation. It recognizes defending—the price for defending freedom will be high, but it's necessary to defend freedom. Our most important job is the security of the United States of America and the security of our friends and allies. And we will pay whatever price it takes to defend America.

I'm so grateful many of you have brought your families, who are here. A grateful nation not only thanks those who wear the uniform, but we thank the wives and husbands and sons and daughters and family members who sacrifice along with you. But in order to make sure that sacrifice is not quite such a hill to climb, in the budget that I've requested to Congress, I'm asking for another pay raise for the people who wear the uniform. It is necessary; it is the right course of action—

Audience member. We love you, George! [Laughter]

The President. —because in the months and years to come, our Nation is going to be asking more of the United States military. And you have my confidence, because you've earned it. You earn it every day, in the difficulties you accept and the dangers

you face. You're each here to serve your country, and your country is grateful. You're here because you believe in America, and America will always believe in you.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:04 a.m. at the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Lance L. Smith, USAF, commander, and Maj. Gen. Dennis R. Larsen, USAF, vice commander, 7th Air Force; and Brig. Gen. David E. Clary, USAF, commander, 51st Fighter Wing.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Jiang Zemin of China in Beijing, China

February 21, 2002

President Jiang. On behalf of the Chinese government and people, I would like to once again extend our warm welcome to you, Mr. President. We have just had a very good discussion about issues of utmost concern, and now I'm prepared to have a continued exchange of views with you on other aspects of the bilateral ties, as well as the international situation.

You will have the floor first.

President Bush. Well, Mr. President, first of all, thank you again for your gracious hospitality. I am so pleased that my wife, Laura, is traveling with me so that she can see the progress of your great country.

I also want to reiterate what I said inside about how thankful our Nation is, my Nation is, for your strong support in our war against terror and how gracious you were with your phone call right after September the 11th, expressing your condolences.

We look forward to finding areas where we can work together, such as energy cooperation—is a chance for us to explore technologies that will enable your country to grow and our country to grow at the same time, work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, for example.

I gave a speech in the United States the other day outlining our vision of making sure we have economic growth and, at the same time, employ new technologies that will help us reduce greenhouse gases. And I announced to the country that I look forward

to working with nations such as yourself, China, to explore ways that we can work together to deal with this issue in a cooperative spirit.

Another area where we can work together is on HIV/AIDS. I understand your Minister of Health is coming to the United States soon, and we can have a good chance for our Secretaries of Health to be able to work together and share information and share hope of able to deal with this very important issue, not only in our own countries but around the world.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Great Hall of the People. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Public Health Zhang Wenkang of China. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With President Jiang in Beijing February 21, 2002

President Jiang. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin by extending on behalf of the Chinese Government and people a warm welcome to President Bush.

This is my second meeting with the President. Four months ago, we had a successful meeting during the APEC Summit in Shanghai. In our talks today, President Bush and I looked back on the past 30 years of China-U.S. relations and had an in-depth discussion on bilateral ties and the current international situation. We have reached many important common understandings and achieved positive results in many areas.

We have agreed that under the current complex and volatile international situation, China and the United States, both with significant influence in the world, should step up dialog and cooperation, properly handle their differences, and work together to move the constructive and cooperative relations between us further forward.

We have agreed to intensify high-level strategic dialog, as well as contacts between various agencies at all levels, with a view to increasing mutual understanding and trust. I have accepted with pleasure and appreciation President Bush's invitation to visit the

United States in October this year, prior to the APEC meeting in Mexico. At the invitation of Vice President Cheney, Vice President Hu Jintao will visit the United States in the near future.

We have agreed to vigorously carry out bilateral exchanges and cooperation in such areas as economy and trade, energy, science and technology, environmental protection, the prevention of HIV/AIDS, and law enforcement, conduct strategic dialog on regional economic and financial matters, and hold within the year meetings of the Joint Economic Commission, Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, and Joint Commission on Science and Technology.

President Bush and I have also had an in-depth discussion on the international fight against terrorism. We have agreed to step up consultation and cooperation on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit and to beef up the bilateral mid- and long-term mechanism for counterterrorism exchanges and cooperation. The two sides have also exchanged views on a series of major international and regional issues, and decided to enhance communication and coordination.

To properly handle the Taiwan question is vital to stability and growth of China-U.S. relations. In my meeting with President Bush, I have elaborated the Chinese Government's basic position of peaceful reunification and "one country, two systems" for the solution of the Taiwan question. And President Bush emphasized that the United States upholds the "one China" policy and will abide by the three Sino-U.S. joint communiqués.

Given the differences in the national condition of the two countries, it is natural for China and the United States to disagree on some issues, which President Bush and I have discussed with candor. So long as the two sides act in a spirit of mutual respect, equality, and seeking common ground while shelving differences, we will be able to gradually narrow our differences, enhance our mutual understanding, and advance our cooperation.

It is my hope and conviction that today's meeting will have a positive impact on improvement and growth of China-U.S. relations.

Thank you. It is your turn now, Mr. President. *[Laughter]*

President Bush. Well, thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate so very much your hospitality. We have just concluded some very candid and positive talks. It is true that I invited the President to the United States next fall. It's true he accepted.

This is the 30th year—30th anniversary of President Nixon's first visit to China, the beginning of 30 years of growth in the U.S.-China relationship. Our ties are mature, respectful, and important to both our nations and to the world.

We discussed a lot of issues, starting with terrorism. We recognize that terrorism is a threat to both our countries, and I welcome China's cooperation in our war against terror. I encourage China to continue to be a force for peace among its neighbors on the Korean Peninsula, in Southeast Asia, and in South Asia.

China, as a full member of the WTO, will now be a full partner in the global trading system and will have the right and responsibility to fashion and enforce the rules of open trade. My Government hopes that China will strongly oppose the proliferation of missiles and other deadly technologies. President Jiang and I agreed that the United States and China could cooperate more closely to defeat HIV/AIDS.

Our talks were candid, and that's very positive. The United States shares interests with China, but we also have some disagreements. We believe that we can discuss our differences with mutual understanding and respect.

As the President mentioned, we talked about Taiwan. The position of my Government has not changed over the years. We believe in the peaceful settlement of this issue. We will urge there be no provocation. The United States will continue to support the Taiwan Relations Act.

China's future is for the Chinese people to decide. Yet no nation is exempt from the demands of human dignity. All the world's people, including the people of China,

should be free to choose how they live, how they worship, and how they work. Dramatic changes have occurred in China in the last 30 years, and I believe equally dramatic changes lie ahead. These will have a profound impact not only on China itself but on the entire family of nations. And the United States will be a steady partner in China's historic transition toward greater prosperity and greater freedom.

Thank you, Mr. President.

National Missile Defense

Q. Thank you, Mr. President, for your hospitality.

President Bush, on the question of strategic nuclear policy, you've said you want to develop a missile defense system in order to defend the United States and its allies from the threats and dangers of the 21st century. Do you envision circumstances where that includes Taiwan?

And President Jiang, if I may, with respect, could you explain to Americans who may not understand your reasoning why your Government restricts the practice of religious faith, in particular, why your Government has imprisoned more than 50 bishops of the Roman Catholic Church?

President Bush. I did bring up the subject of missile defenses in the broad context of protecting ourselves and our friends and allies against a launch by a threatening nation. I explained to the President that we've just recently gotten out from underneath the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and are beginning to explore the full options as to whether or not a system will work. And that's the extent of our conversation.

China-U.S. Relations

Q. Just now, President Bush mentioned that today marks the 30th anniversary of the first visit to China by President Bush. In few days' time, the 28th of this month will mark the 30th anniversary of the release of the Shanghai Communiqué. So my question to President Jiang is, how would you characterize the relationship over the past 30 years?

President Jiang. We will have in February the 30th anniversary of the first visit to China by President Nixon and the release of the Shanghai Communiqué. The visit by

President Bush coincides with this day, and his visit is highly meaningful. Thirty years ago, leaders of China and the United States acted together to put an end to mutual estrangement and open the gate for exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

History has proven that it was with great vision that our leaders took this major move. The growth of bilateral ties over the years has brought tangible benefits to the two peoples and played an important role in safeguarding peace in the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole.

At present, despite profound changes in the international situation, China and United States have more rather than less shared interests and more rather than less common responsibility for world peace. The importance of the relationship has increased rather than decreased. So to build a constructive and cooperative relationship serves the desire of not only the people of the two countries but also of the people throughout the world.

The Chinese side is ready to join the U.S. side in reflecting on the past and looking to the future, increasing exchanges and cooperation and enhancing understanding and trust. I'm deeply convinced that so long as the two sides bear in mind the larger picture, take a long-term perspective, and abide by the principles in the three Sino-U.S. joint communiques, the relationship will make even bigger strides forward in the years ahead.

Thank you.

North Korea/China's Role in the Coalition

Q. Thank you. President Jiang, do you agree with President Bush that there should be a regime change in Iraq? And if so, would you support the use of all necessary means to accomplish that? And with respect, sir, we're eager to hear the response to the original question about the arrest of Catholic bishops in your country and attention to religious groups in general.

And President Bush, you have thanked the Chinese for their cooperation in the anti-terror campaign. As that campaign evolves, can you say today what would be the single most important contribution that China could

make? And did you receive any assurance today that that will happen?

President Bush. Let me start. We discussed the Korean Peninsula, and I told the President that I was deeply concerned about a regime that is not transparent and that starves its people. I also—he reminded me that he had a conversation with Kim Chong-il last fall, urging Kim Chong-il to take up Kim Dae-jung's offer for discussion. That was constructive leadership.

I then told him that the offer I made yesterday in Seoul was a real offer and that we would be willing to meet with a North Korean regime. And I asked his help in conveying that message to Kim Chong-il, if he so chooses. If he speaks to the leader of North Korea, he can assure him that I am sincere in my desire to have our folks meet.

My point is that not every theater in the war against terror need be resolved with force. Some theaters can be resolved through diplomacy and dialog. And the Chinese Government can be very helpful.

Furthermore, in the first theater in the war against terror, part of the call for our coalition is to make sure that Afghanistan becomes a self-supporting, peaceful nation. And the Chinese Government is supportive of the aid efforts, to make sure that we aid the new post-Taliban Afghani Government in its opportunities to develop its own army, as well as its own economy, its own security. And so they've been helpful there, as well.

Thank you.

China's Economic Development/Catholic Bishops in China/Korean Peninsula/Iraq

Q. I have got a two-part question. First, in recent years, China has enjoyed rapid economic growth, and its national strength has increased. Some people in the United States have concluded that because of this, China has posed a potential threat to the United States, and they call for a policy of containment against China. What's your comment, President Jiang?

And secondly, in your opening remarks, President Jiang, you mentioned that the key to steady growth of Sino-U.S. relationship is the proper handling of the question of Taiwan. President Bush, in his opening remarks,

also elaborated on the U.S. position on Taiwan. President Jiang, could you comment on what President Bush has said on the question of Taiwan?

President Jiang. We're living in a world of diversity. As two major countries with different national conditions, China and the U.S. have, indeed, had certain disagreements. But they also share broad and important common interests. So the old mindsets which views the relationship between countries as either of alliance or confrontation, ought to be abandoned, and a new security concept which features security through mutual trust and cooperation through mutual benefit should be established.

It's true that since the inception of reform and opening-up program, China's national strength and people's living standards have somewhat improved in recent years. Yet, compared with the developed countries, our economic and cultural developments remains quite backwards. With a population of over 1.2 billion, the road ahead is still very long before we can basically complete modernization and deliver a better life to all our people. To focus on economic development and improvements of people's livelihoods is our long-term central task.

What China wants most is a peaceful and tranquil international environment with long-term stability, to not do unto others what you would not like others to do unto you. Even if China becomes more developed in the future, it will not go for bullying or threatening other countries. Facts have proven already and will continue to prove that China is a staunch force dedicated to the maintenance of peace in the region and the world at large.

Now, let me comment on the questions posed to me by the American correspondents as they raised questions for President Bush. President Bush, he has much more experience than I. [Laughter] I will do my best to answer your question.

In the first question, the correspondent mentioned that some of the Catholic Church people have been detained. I want to explain that since the founding of People's Republic of China, all our constitutions, various versions, have provided for the freedom of religious belief. In China there are many religions which include Buddhism, Catholicism,

Protestantism, Islam, and a typical Chinese religion, Taoism. And their religious faiths are protected by our Constitution.

I don't have religious faith. Yet this does not prevent me from having an interest in religion. I've read the Bible. I've also read the Koran, as well as the Scriptures of Buddhism. I often have meetings with the religious leaders in this country. For instance, when we are about to celebrate the new year or during the holiday season, I would have meetings with them and exchange views.

Whatever religion people believe in, they have to abide by the law. So some of the lawbreakers have been detained because of their violation of law, not because of their religious belief. Although I'm the President of this country, I have no right interfering in the judicial affairs, because of judicial independence.

You also asked about the Korean Peninsula issue. President Bush has also commented on this. In our talks just now, the two of us exchanged views on the Korean Peninsula. I want to make clear that we have all along pursued such a position. That is, we want the Korean Peninsula to have peace and stability. We hope that the problems between DPRK and ROK can be resolved through dialog. And we also sincerely hope that the contacts between the United States and DPRK will be resumed.

All in all, in handling state-to-state relations, it is important to resolve the problems through peaceful means, in a spirit of equality, and through consultation. And that's why I've explained our consistent and clear-cut position on the question of Korean Peninsula. It's quite near.

You asked about Iraq. Iraq is not as near. But I think, as I made clear in my discussion with President Bush just now, the important thing is that peace is to be valued most.

With regard to counterterrorism, our position has not changed from the position I made clear to President Bush when we last met 4 months ago. And that is, China is firmly opposed to international terrorism of all forms.

I'm very pleased to see that Afghanistan has now embarked on a road of peaceful reconstruction. I wish them well. I hope they

will succeed in rebuilding their country and enjoying national unity and peace.

Let me conclude by quoting a Chinese proverb: "More haste, less speed." Despite the fact that sometimes you will have problems that cry out for immediate solution, yet patience is sometime also necessary. Or perhaps I could quote another Chinese old saying to describe the situation: "One cannot expect to dig a well with one spade." So we need to make continuous our unlimiting efforts to fight terrorism.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 1:15 p.m. in the Great Hall of the People. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea and President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea. President Jiang spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks on Viewing the Cummins Bus Engine and an Exchange With Reporters in Beijing

February 21, 2002

The President. Well, thank you very much, Martha. I appreciate that explanation as to why trade is to the advantage of the United States worker and to the Chinese worker. I want to thank you very much for inviting me and the Secretary of State here and our Ambassador.

We've just come from a very fruitful discussion of key issues with President Jiang, and part of our discussion had to do with trade, and part of our discussion had to do with how do we make sure we've got a clean environment. And it's very interesting to me that this presentation that you just made is a clear indication of how we can achieve both, prosperity and a cleaner environment.

Before I say a few comments, I do want to thank Mr. Shusen, as well, for being here. Thank you, sir, for your leadership. I also want to thank Tim Stafford and Steven Chew, as well, for bringing their product by.

As Martha said, China has bought about 2,000 U.S.-built bus engines that burn clean compressed natural gas instead of diesel fuel. The city of Beijing now owns one of the largest natural gas bus fleets in the world. It is—

it's wise policy, because natural gas burns cleanly.

It is also wise policy that we trade together, because it means somebody is going to have a job. You know, there are some in the United States that fear trade. They want to erect barriers. I think this is a living example of why trade is positive and good. The bus engines China buys from America create jobs in North Carolina. The money that the workers earn in North Carolina can be used to purchase goods made in China. And as a result, both people benefit—both people, both countries, people in both countries are better off as a result of the commerce that takes place, in this case, as a result of automobile and bus engines and transmissions.

As well, one of the things that the President and I talked about was the need to address greenhouse gases in a way that recognizes that economic growth and a cleaner environment can go hand in hand. I addressed our Nation a couple of weeks ago and laid out my administration's policy on climate change. In my address, I made it very clear that any policy must encourage economic vitality. Societies that are economically vital are those that are more able to afford the technologies that will end up cleaning up the environment.

And so, growth is essential for our country and for China. And wise growth and the use of technologies can clean up our environment, and that's exactly what we're looking at here, and so I want to thank you all for a vivid example of why I have been so strong for China entering the WTO and why I believe that good, constructive policy using modern technologies can clean up both our environments.

You know, we've got a strong relationship with China. China is a great country. China is a country that has got vast potential. And it's in our Nation's interest that we work with China on a variety of issues. It's in our Nation's interest that we trade with China. It's in our Nation's interest that China adhere to the rules of the World Trade Organization.

It's in our Nation's interest we cooperate with China on the war against terror. And

we are. And I appreciate the Chinese leadership for not only its quick response to the terrorist activities that hit our country on September the 11th and their compassionate response for the people of our country; I also appreciate the fact that we're working closely to battle terror around the world.

It's in our interest to have good, strong dialog. As I said in a speech earlier today in South Korea, a point I also mentioned in Japan, is that the United States is a Pacific nation. And as a result, we've got to have and will maintain close relations with Pacific—or other nations in the Pacific. And there's no more important nation than China. And we will have close dialog with China. Sometimes we will agree, and sometimes we won't agree. But in those instances where we don't agree, we will do so in a respectful way.

I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate this living exhibit as to why trade is positive for the people of America and trade is positive for the people of China.

Thank you.

Okay. How is everybody doing over here?

Upcoming Remarks at Tsinghua University

Q. Will you be asking China to embrace American values?

The President. You had your chance at the press conference.

Q. What's your message for tomorrow?

The President. My message, what?

Q. Your message for tomorrow. We have to pitch ahead. Tomorrow at the university, will you be asking China to embrace American values?

The President. I will be defending American values and talking clearly about American values. It's important for—starting with freedom. And I don't want to give it all away because you won't—

Q. I will.

The President. No, you won't. [Laughter]

Q. What will you be asking the Chinese to do—

The President. See, you're trying to get me to—I'd like you to come and pay attention to it word for word.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. at the St. Regis Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Martha Brooks, vice president of marketing and

sales, Cummins, Inc.; U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr.; President Jiang Zemin of China; Zheng Shusen, general manager, Beijing Public Transit Corp.; Timothy P. Stratford, vice chairman, General Motors China; and Steven Chew, commercial director, Allison Transmission China Operation. The exchange portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Message on the Observance of Eid al-Adha, 2002

February 21, 2002

I am pleased to send warm greetings to Muslims across the United States as you celebrate the Eid al-Adha holiday.

As you join in spirit with those gathered in Mecca to observe the traditions of one of your most sacred feasts, may you share joyful and reverent fellowship with family and friends.

During this special time, our Nation is reminded of the remarkable contributions of American Muslims to our history, culture, and way of life. Our spiritual foundation and common heritage will continue to guide us as we strive to strengthen our country and advance peace and goodness in our world.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a joyous observance.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks on Confirmation of the Death of Daniel Pearl in Beijing

February 22, 2002

Laura and I and the American people are deeply saddened to learn about the loss of Daniel Pearl's life. And we're really sad for his wife and his parents and his friends and colleagues, who have been clinging to hope for weeks that he be found alive. We are especially sad for his unborn child, who will now know his father only through the memory of others.

All Americans are sad and angry to learn of the murder. All around the world, American journalists and humanitarian aid workers

and diplomats and others do important work in places that are sometimes dangerous. Those who would threaten Americans, those who would engage in criminal, barbaric acts, need to know that these crimes only hurt their cause and only deepen the resolve of the United States of America to rid the world of these agents of terror.

May God bless Daniel Pearl.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:21 a.m. at the St. Regis Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl, who was kidnaped January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan; and his wife, Mariane.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at Tsinghua University in Beijing

February 22, 2002

The President. Vice President Hu, thank you very much for your kind and generous remarks. Thank you for welcoming me and my wife, Laura, here. I see she's keeping pretty good company, with the Secretary of State, Colin Powell. It's good to see you, Mr. Secretary. And I see my National Security Adviser, Ms. Condoleezza Rice, who at one time was the provost at Stanford University. So she's comfortable on university campuses such as this. Thank you for being here, Condi.

I'm so grateful for the hospitality and honored for the reception at one of China's and the world's great universities.

This university was founded, interestingly enough, with the support of my country, to further ties between our two nations. I know how important this place is to your Vice President. He not only received his degree here, but more importantly, he met his gracious wife here. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank the students for giving me the chance to meet with you, the chance to talk a little bit about my country and answer some of your questions.

The standards and reputation of this university are known around the world, and I know what an achievement it is to be here. So, congratulations. I don't know if you know this or not, but my wife and I have two daughters who are in college, just like you.

One goes to the University of Texas. One goes to Yale. They're twins, and we are proud of our daughters, just like I'm sure your parents are proud of you.

My visit to China comes on an important anniversary, as the Vice President mentioned. Thirty years ago this week, an American President arrived in China on a trip designed to end decades of estrangement and confront centuries of suspicion. President Richard Nixon showed the world that two vastly different governments could meet on the grounds of common interest, in the spirit of mutual respect. As they left the airport that day, Premier Zhou Enlai said this to President Nixon: "Your handshake came over the vastest ocean in the world, 25 years of no communication."

During the 30 years since, America and China have exchanged many handshakes of friendship and commerce. And as we have had more contact with each other, the citizens of both countries have gradually learned more about each other. And that's important. Once America knew China only by its history as a great and enduring civilization. Today, we see a China that is still defined by noble traditions of family, scholarship, and honor. And we see a China that is becoming one of the most dynamic and creative societies in the world, as demonstrated by the knowledge and potential right here in this room. China is on a rising path, and America welcomes the emergence of a strong and peaceful and prosperous China.

As America learns more about China, I am concerned that the Chinese people do not always see a clear picture of my country. This happens for many reasons and some of them of our own making. Our movies and television shows often do not portray the values of the real America I know. Our successful businesses show a strength of American commerce, but our spirit, community spirit, and contributions to each other are not always visible as monetary success.

Some of the erroneous pictures of America are painted by others. My friend the Ambassador to China tells me some Chinese textbooks talk of Americans of "bullying the weak and repressing the poor." Another Chinese textbook, published just last year, teaches that Special Agents of the FBI are used to

“repress the working people.” Now, neither of these is true, and while the words may be leftovers from a previous era, they are misleading, and they’re harmful.

In fact, Americans feel a special responsibility for the weak and the poor. Our Government spends billions of dollars to provide health care and food and housing for those who cannot help themselves. And even more important, many of our citizens contribute their own money and time to help those in need. American compassion also stretches way beyond our borders. We’re the number one provider of humanitarian aid to people in need throughout the world. And as for the men and women of the FBI and law enforcement, they’re working people; they, themselves, are working people who devote their lives to fighting crime and corruption.

My country certainly has its share of problems, no question about that. And we have our faults. Like most nations, we’re on a long journey toward achieving our own ideals of equality and justice. Yet there’s a reason our Nation shines as a beacon of hope and opportunity, a reason many throughout the world dream of coming to America. It’s because we’re a free nation, where men and women have the opportunity to achieve their dreams. No matter your background or your circumstance of birth, in America you can get a good education; you can start your own business; you can raise a family; you can worship freely and help elect the leaders of your community and your country. You can support the policies of our Government, or you’re free to openly disagree with them. Those who fear freedom sometimes argue it could lead to chaos, but it does not, because freedom means more than every man for himself.

Liberty gives our citizens many rights, yet expects them to exercise important responsibilities. Our liberty is given direction and purpose by moral character, shaped in strong families, strong communities, and strong religious institutions, and overseen by a strong and fair legal system.

My country’s greatest symbol to the world is the Statue of Liberty, and it was designed by special care. I don’t know if you’ve ever seen the Statue of Liberty, but if you look closely, she’s holding not one object, but two.

In one hand is the familiar torch we call the “light of liberty,” and in the other hand is a book of law.

We’re a nation of laws. Our courts are honest, and they are independent. The President—me—I can’t tell the courts how to rule, and neither can any other member of the executive or legislative branch of government. Under our law, everyone stands equal. No one is above the law, and no one is beneath it.

All political power in America is limited, and it is temporary and only given by the free vote of the people. We have a Constitution, now two centuries old, which limits and balances the power of the three branches of our Government, the judicial branch, the legislative branch, and the executive branch, of which I’m a part.

Many of the values that guide our life in America are first shaped in our families, just as they are in your country. American moms and dads love their children and work hard and sacrifice for them, because we believe life can always be better for the next generation. In our families, we find love and learn responsibility and character.

And many Americans voluntarily devote part of their lives to serving other people. An amazing number, nearly half of all adults in America, volunteer time every week to make their communities better by mentoring children or by visiting the sick or caring for the elderly or helping with thousands of other needs and causes. This is one of the great strengths of my country. People take responsibility for helping others without being told, motivated by their good hearts and often by their faith.

America is a nation guided by faith. Someone once called us “a nation with the soul of a church.” This may interest you: 95 percent of Americans say they believe in God, and I’m one of them.

When I met President Jiang Zemin in Shanghai a few months ago, I had the honor of sharing with him how faith changed my life and how faith contributes to the life of my country. Faith points to a moral law beyond man’s law and calls us to duties higher than material gain. Freedom of religion is not something to be feared; it’s to be welcomed,

because faith gives us a moral core and teaches us to hold ourselves to high standards, to love and to serve others, and to live responsible lives.

If you travel across America—and I hope you do some day, if you haven't been there—you will find people of many different ethnic backgrounds and many different faiths. We're a varied nation. We're home to 2.3 million Americans of Chinese ancestry, who can be found working in the offices of our corporations or in the Cabinet of the President of the United States or skating for the America Olympic team. Every immigrant, by taking an oath of allegiance to our country, becomes just as an American as the President. America shows that a society can be vast and it can be varied, yet still one country, commanding the allegiance and love of its people.

And all these qualities of America were widely on display on a single day, September the 11th, the day when terrorists, murderers, attacked my Nation. American policemen and firefighters, by the hundreds, ran into burning towers in desperation to save their fellow citizens. Volunteers came from everywhere to help with rescue efforts. Americans donated blood and gave money to help the families of victims. America had prayer services all over our country, and people raised flags to show their pride and unity. And you need to know, none of this was ordered by the Government. It happened spontaneously, by the initiative of free people.

Life in America shows that liberty, paired with law, is not to be feared. In a free society, diversity is not disorder; debate is not strife; and dissent is not revolution. A free society trusts its citizens to seek greatness in themselves and their country.

It was my honor to visit China in 1975. Some of you weren't even born then. It shows how old I am—[laughter]—and a lot has changed in your country since then. China has made amazing progress in openness and enterprise and economic freedom. And this progress previews China's great potential.

China has joined the World Trade Organization, and as you live up to its obligations, they inevitably will bring changes to China's legal system. A modern China will have a

consistent rule of law to govern commerce and secure the rights of its people. The new China your generation is building will need the profound wisdom of your traditions. The lure of materialism challenges our society—challenges society in our country and in many successful countries. Your ancient ethic of personal and family responsibility will serve you well.

Behind China's economic success today are talented, brilliant, and energetic people. In the near future, those same men and women will play a full and active role in your Government. This university is not simply turning out specialists; it is preparing citizens. And citizens are not spectators in the affairs of their country. They are participants in its future.

Change is coming. China is already having secret ballot and competitive elections at the local level. Nearly 20 years ago, a great Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, said this—I want you to hear his words. He said that China would eventually expand democratic elections all the way to the national level. I look forward to that day.

Tens of millions of Chinese today are re-learning Buddhist, Taoist, and local religious traditions, or practicing Christianity, Islam, and other faiths. Regardless of where or how these believers worship, they're no threat to public order; in fact, they make good citizens. For centuries, this country has had a tradition of religious tolerance. My prayer is that all persecution will end, so that all in China are free to gather and worship as they wish.

All these changes will lead to a stronger, more confident China, a China that can astonish and enrich the world, a China that your generation will help create. This is one of the most exciting times in the history of your country, a time when even the grandest hopes seem within your reach.

My Nation offers you our respect and our friendship. Six years from now, athletes from America and around the world will come to your country for the Olympic games. And I'm confident they will find a China that is becoming a *da guo*, a leading nation, at peace with its people and at peace with the world.

Thank you for letting me come.

Taiwan

Participant. Mr. President, yesterday I watched the press conference made by you and President Jiang Zemin. At the conference, you didn't clearly answer a question which is a concern by almost everybody. It's why the TMD system will cover Taiwan. And what's more, whenever you talk about the Taiwan issue, you always use a phrase just like "peaceful settlement." You never use the phrase "peaceful reunification." What's the difference and why?

The President. Thank you, very good question. First of all, I want to compliment you on your English. Very good.

The first thing that is important on the Taiwan issue is that my Government hopes there is a peaceful, as I said, dialog, that there is a settlement to this issue. But it must be done in a peaceful way. That's why I keep emphasizing peaceful. And by the way, peaceful is a word intended for both parties, that neither party should provoke that—go ahead, I'm sorry.

[The interpreter continued the translation.]

Interpreter. First of all—sorry.

The President. She's correcting my English. *[Laughter]*

Interpreter. I'm sorry, Mr. President.

[The interpreter continued the translation.]

The President. We've had many discussions with your leaders, and I've reiterated support for the "one China" policy. It's been my Government's policy for a long period of time, and I haven't changed it.

I also, in your question about missile defenses, have made it clear that our Nation will develop defenses to help our friends, our allies, and others around the world protect ourselves from rogue nations that have the—that are trying to develop weapons of mass destruction. To me, that is essential for peace in the world. We have yet to develop a system, and therefore, that's exactly what I said yesterday, and it's the truth. But we're in the process of seeing if we can't develop a system, and I think it will bring more stability to the world than less.

And let me just say one general comment that's very important for you to know, and it's also important for the people of my coun-

try to know: that my administration is committed to peacefully resolving issues around the world. We want the issues resolved in a peaceful manner.

And we've got a lot of issues that we deal with. We're dealing in the Middle East. And if you follow the news, it's a very dangerous period of time there. We're working hard to bring peaceful resolution there. We're working hard to bring a peaceful resolution to Kashmir, which is important for China. And I recently went to Korea, and I made it very clear that we want to resolve the issues on the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful way.

Another question, please?

Participant. I'll repeat my question in English.

The President. Thank you.

Participant. It's a pity you still haven't given us—sorry—give us a clear question about whether you always use the "peaceful settlement." You have never said "peaceful reunification." It's a pity.

The President. We're back on Taiwan again—*[laughter]*—go ahead.

Participant. This is a question our Chinese people are extremely concerned about.

The President. Yes, I know.

Participant. Three days ago, during your speech in the Japanese Parliament, you said, the United States will still remember its commitment to Taiwan.

The President. Right.

Participant. But my question is, does the U.S. still remember its commitment to 1.3 billion Chinese people, abiding by the three Joint Communiqués and three notes? Thank you.

The President. Thank you very much. As I said, this seems to be a topic on people's mind, obviously. I can't say it any more clearly, that I am anxious that there be a peaceful resolution that's going to require both parties to come to a solution. And that's what I mean by peaceful dialog. And I hope it happens in my lifetime, and I hope it happens in yours. It will make a—it will be an important milestone.

And secondly, when my country makes an agreement, we stick with it. And there is called the Taiwan Relations Act, and I honor that act, which says we will help Taiwan defend herself if provoked. But we've also sent

the same message that there should be no provocation by either party for a peaceful dialog.

Next question. Yes, ma'am. That's not a ma'am; that's a male. Sorry. Actually, I said, yes, ma'am, but——

Future First Family Visits to China

Participant. Now, please let me repeat my question in English. Mr. President, I'm a student coming from the School of Economics and Management in Tsinghua University. As we can see, China and the United States have a bright future in scientific and cultural exchanges. Now—just now—you have made warm remarks about our universities. So my question is, if possible, do you—will you be happy to encourage your daughters to study in our university? Thank you.

The President. I'm afraid they don't listen to me anymore—[laughter]—if you know what I mean. Let me—first of all, I hope they do come here. It is an amazing country. You know, as I said, I was here in 1975. It is hard for me to describe the difference. It is an amazing transformation. I first saw that in Shanghai, earlier this fall—or last fall.

They would benefit from coming here, as would a lot of other United States students. I think our student exchange program is very important. I think our Nation must be welcoming to Chinese students who would like to go study in America. I think that would benefit the students, but as importantly, it would benefit American students.

It's so important for people to realize in both our countries that we're dealing with human beings that have got desires and loves and frustrations. Even old citizens like me and the Vice President—[laughter]——

Interpreter. I'm sorry, sir?

The President. Even older citizens like me and the Vice President—[laughter]—can benefit by spending time getting to know each other. Obviously, there are some issues in our relationship that we don't see 100 percent—don't have a 100 percent agreement on. But it is so much better to discuss these issues after you get to know a person, as a person.

We're human beings, first and foremost. There are just some important characteristics that are real. And you know, I talked about

my families in my speech. Family is just such an important, integral part of any society. And China has got a grand history of honoring family that is an important tradition, an important part of your culture. And I hope my country, as well, has a—is known for a strong tradition of family. That's a concept that is not owned by a particular country; it is universal. And when students get to know each other, they learn the universality of many values. And that's going to be important for peace in the world.

Another question?

China-U.S. Relations

Participant. Please let me translate my question in English. Mr. President, I'm a student from Center for International Communication Studies. Your younger brother, Neil Bush, visited our university just before last Christmas, and he mentioned that there are many Americans, especially politicians, have a lot of misunderstandings about China. So just like—just as our Vice President Hu Jintao and you mentioned, you all want to make efforts to promote the Sino-American relationship to go ahead smoothly. So my question is, being the President of the United States, what will it take—some action to promote the contacts and exchanges between the two countries, between the peoples at all different levels? Thank you.

The President. Well, thank you, that's a very good question.

Participant. Thank you.

The President. Well, first of all, my trip here and my discussion here helps promote—[applause]—people in my country are paying attention to my visit here. And it should interest you that I was here in the fall, and I'm back here again in the winter—twice, in a very brief period of time. That should say something about the importance of our relationships.

It's important for our political leaders to come to China. And I know many have, and more ought to come. It's important for the rhetoric, when we describe what we've seen, to be accurate and real. And when I go back home, I describe a great nation, a nation that has not only got a great history but an unbelievably exciting future.

Many people in my country are very interested in China, and many come, as you know. They come to not only see the beautiful countryside, but they come to learn more about the culture and the people. And we've got to continue to encourage travel between both our countries.

But you know, what's really going to make a significant difference in world understanding of your great country is the Olympics. It's going to be a fantastic opportunity—it is. It's going to be a chance for people from all over the world not only to come and visit and to stay in hotels and to see the modernization that has taken place, but everybody in the world is going to watch it on TV, too, and it's going to be a great opportunity. And I think that's one of the reasons why I think it makes sense to give Beijing the Olympics in 2008.

Yes, sir. Go ahead and yell it. There you go.

Participant. Now please, let me repeat it in English.

The President. Thank you.

Participant. Mr. President, you have been to China in 1975, and you have mentioned just now there are a lot of changes in the Chinese society. Have the effects—the programs in the economy—have you noticed any other social programs in the changing society?

The President. Well, I appreciate that. Let me tell you my most notable—the thing I have noticed most. And it has to do with the economy, but it also has to do with a different attitude toward the people.

In 1975, everybody wore the same clothes. Now, people pick their own clothes. Just look here on the front row: Everybody's dressed differently, because you thought this is what you wanted. You made the decision to wear a beautiful red sweater, and when you made that decision, somebody made it.

And in other words, the person, the individual—the demand for a product influences the production, as opposed to the other way around. Recognizing the desires of the individual in the marketplace is part of a free society. It is a part of the definition of freedom. And I see that as the most significant change that I can see, besides the new buildings and all the construction.

But the most important thing is the human dimension of freeing people to decide for themselves. And with that freedom comes other freedoms. So you can understand why the transformation from my memory of 1975 to today is significant. I mean, it is an amazing change—for the better, I might add.

I'll answer one more question, then I've got to go have lunch with your President. [Laughter] Yes, sir, in the blue.

Crime and Education in the United States

Participant. Thank you, Mr. Bush. Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the last chance to ask you a question. I have read your autobiography, and in it you wrote about some social problem in the U.S. today, just like the violence in campus and juvenile delinquency, and such as the children in poverty. And we know a former schoolmate of our university, Tsinghua, and he studied in USA and was killed last year. And I feel so sad. And I know this kind of crime has become more and more serious in today U.S. As the President, do you have any good plan to improve the human rights today in the U.S.? Thank you.

The President. Sure. Well, first of all, I'm proud to report that violent crime actually is going down. But any crime is too much crime. I mean, anytime somebody is violent toward their neighbor, it's too much violence. And there's no question, we've got people living in poverty. But as I mentioned, our Government is very generous in the amounts of money we spend trying to help people help themselves. When we all campaigned for office, one of the big debates is how best to help people help themselves.

Foreign policy is an important part of our campaigns, of course, at least for President. But the American voter really is more focused on domestic politics, what's happening at home, as you can imagine. If the economy is soft, like ours is now, they want to know, "What's going to happen? What are you doing about the economy?" If the economy's good, then they don't talk much about the economy.

But always we talk about two key issues, to address your problem. One is welfare; how do we structure a welfare system that helps people in need and, in my judgment, should

not make them dependent upon their Government? And the other big issue is education. It's always not only an important part of campaigns, but it's an important part of being—once you're in office.

When I was the Governor of Texas, I used to always say, "An educated child is one less likely to commit a crime." As a Governor, and now as President, I have spent a lot of time working with members of both political parties to develop an education plan that starts making sure children learn before they just get shuffled through the system.

One of the saddest facts about my country is that there are a significant number of fourth grade students who cannot read at grade level. Imagine a child who can't read in the fourth grade is a child that's not going to be able to read in the eighth grade. And if a child can't read in the eighth grade, it's likely that child's not going to be able to read sufficiently when they get out of high school and, therefore, won't be able to go to college. It's a shame in America that that's the case.

So as part of an education bill I managed to get through Congress last year, we've got a significant reading initiative, where we'll work with the States and the local jurisdictions to focus on an education program that emphasizes reading. This year I hope to work with my wife and others on a early childhood development program, so the youngsters get the building blocks to learn how to read.

I'm actually working my way to your question, I promise you—[*laughter*]—because education is the best anticrime program. It's important to enforce law. It's important to hold people accountable for their actions. It is important to have consistent policy that says, "If you harm somebody, there will be a punishment for that harm." But in the best interests for my country, the long-term solution is to make sure the education system works for everybody. And when that happens, there will be a more hopeful future for people, and there will be less poverty, less hopelessness, and less crime.

Listen, thank you for letting me come. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the main hall. In his remarks, he referred to Vice President Hu Jintao of China, who introduced the President; President Jiang Zemin of China; and

U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr. A participant in the question-and-answer session referred to the TMD system, theater missile defense system. Participants asked their questions in Chinese and then repeated them in English.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 16

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Anchorage, AK.

In the afternoon, the President met with members of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., at the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

February 17

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Tokyo, Japan. Following their arrival in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush met with employees and their families at the U.S. Embassy.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard H. Baker, Jr., and his wife, Nancy Kassebaum Baker, at the Ambassador's residence.

February 18

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush visited the Meiji Jingu Shrine, where they attended an archery demonstration.

In the afternoon, the President had a working lunch with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan at Ikura House, the Prime Minister's residence.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a reception at Ikura House. Later, they attended a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Koizumi at the Gonpachi restaurant.

February 19

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Japanese businessmen at the U.S. Ambassador's residence.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a luncheon hosted by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan at the Imperial Palace.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Seoul, South Korea, where they participated in an arrival ceremony. They then went to the U.S. Embassy, where they greeted employees and their families.

February 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a welcoming ceremony at the Blue House, the residence of President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Observation Post Ouellette in the Demilitarized Zone, where he toured the facilities and had lunch with U.S. soldiers. He then traveled to Dorasan, and later returned to Seoul.

February 21

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Beijing, China, where they participated in an arrival ceremony at the Great Hall of the People.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr., and his wife, Sarah, at the St. Regis Hotel. Later, he greeted U.S. Embassy staff and their families at the hotel.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a dinner hosted by President Jiang Zemin of China at the Great Hall of the People.

The White House announced that Zalmay Khalilzad, the President's Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Special Assistant to the President for Southwest Asia, the Near East, and North Africa, will travel to Afghanistan on February 20–25.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan to the White House on March 12.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister

Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to Washington on March 25.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Council on the Humanities: Naomi Shihab Nye; Wilfred M. McClay; Michael Pack; James R. Stoner, Jr.; Andrew Ladis; Amy Apfel Kass; Celeste Colgan; Thomas Mallon; and Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles M. Younger, Gilbert S. Baca, and Marsha Johnson Evans to be members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Military Academy.

February 22

In the morning, the President had a working breakfast with Premier Zhu Rongji of China at the Diaoyutai State Guest House.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a luncheon hosted by President Jiang at the Zhongnanhai Compound. Following the luncheon, they toured the Great Wall of China.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to Washington on March 2–6.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Counselor to the President Karen Hughes on the President and First Lady's luncheon with the Emperor and Empress of Japan

Advance text of the President's remarks to the Diet in Tokyo, Japan

Fact sheet: 2002 U.S.-Japan Private Sector/Government Commission

Released February 20

Excerpts From Remarks at Dorasan Train Station, South Korea

Released February 21

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's meeting with President Jiang Zemin of China

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Karimov of Uzbekistan to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary on the visit to Afghanistan by the President's Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Special Assistant to the President for Southwest Asia, the Near East, and North Africa

Released February 22

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Colin Powell

Statement by the Press Secretary: Elections in Zimbabwe

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Egyptian President Mubarak

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.